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Niagara News

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Frank Cutler, 72, Royal Canadian Legion member, Jim Nesbitt, 73, service officer, Paul Latulippe, 76, poppy chairman, and Vic Wilcox, 70, president, are members of Legion Branch 4 in Welland. A Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the Welland Legion on Tuesday, Nov. 11. During the ceremony, a new cenotaph will be dedicated. See Page15. **Photo by Mark Riehl**

Week of November 17 - 21: Niagara College International Week

The International Education Department is proud to sponsor Niagara College's 3rd Annual International Education Week. *"For Canadian students, By Canadian students, Together with our 100 International students."*

NIAGARA NEWS

Internship valuable aspect of PR program

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

For the past two years, students in the one-year Public Relations (Post-graduate) program have been asking to participate in an internship. Next spring this year's students will finally get the opportunity.

"The students who were in the program those years asked for internships and thought they would be a positive aspect of the program," said Nancy Geddie, co-ordinator of the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program.

The main goal of the internship is to provide students with hands-on experience.

"It may also get (students) a foot in the door for a permanent position," Geddie said.

The internship will match students with the public relations departments of local organizations or public relations agencies. Most internships will be in the Niagara Region, but special considerations may be given to students from outside Niagara.

Alison Vizzari, the program's internship officer, will interview students and investigate each organization. She will make the matches according to the students' abilities, skills and interests.

"Students can make the contact if they'd like," Vizzari said, but they are not obligated to find their own internship.

"The internship is not mandatory, but is highly recommended," Geddie said.

"It will give students the opportunity to whet their appetite and see if PR is really for them," Vizzari said.

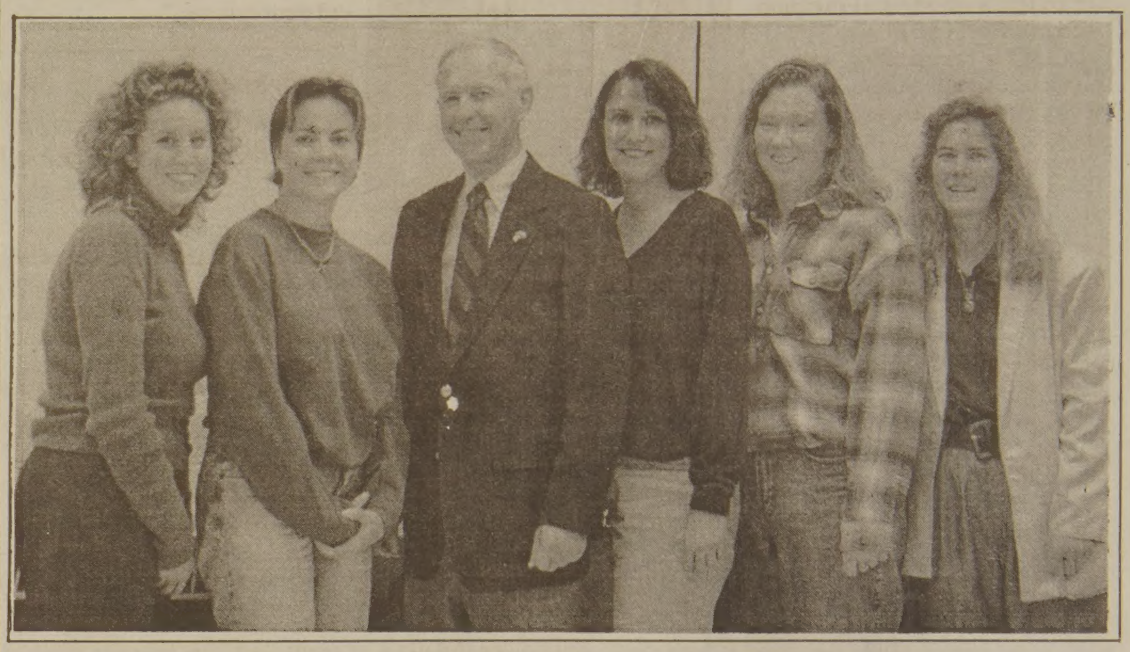
It may also give students a valuable reference and contacts in the industry.

"The college will keep a close eye (on the internship) to make sure the student is happy, the organization is happy and the college is happy," Geddie said.

"Businesses are exceptionally accepting (and) so willing to take our students," Vizzari said.

The internships, which are unpaid, begin the last week of March and will run Mondays and Fridays for four weeks. The number of hours will depend on the needs of the organization.

Different perspective on learning



From left are Sarah Vogt and Julie Tannahill, Niagara College students, Tom Edwards, of the Business and Public Service Dept. at Florence-Darlington in South Carolina, Amy Davis, on exchange from Florence-Darlington, Jodi St. Amand, of Niagara College and Bonnie Martel, co-ordinator of the Business Administration-Accounting program.

Photo by Carrie White

By JENN WALKER
and CARRIE WHITE
Staff Writers

Seeing what is learned in the classroom from a different point of view and learning it by different strategies can add some spice to the subject.

Tom Edwards, of the Business and Public Service Department at Florence-Darlington Technical College in South Carolina, spoke to several classes in the past two weeks.

He came to Niagara College to expose students to different perspectives on their curriculum and to different teaching methods. He was also recruiting students for an exchange program with his college.

"It's an opportunity for instructors to meet with other instructors from other colleges and compare notes, and it's very nice for the students to see education from a little different perspective," Edwards said.

This is Edwards' fourth visit to the college. He spent his first week here giving lectures to classes in many of the business programs and then to other programs during the second week.

Edwards said he's "very impressed" with the co-operative spirit of the Niagara College faculty.

"I really feel at home here. Everyone's so friendly."

Amy Davis, 22, of Dillon, S.C., is an exchange student in the college's accounting program. She arrived here in August and will return to South Carolina in December.

Davis volunteered for the exchange program because she "figured it would be a good experience."

"I knew I'd learn a lot, but not this much," Davis said. "The teachers here really seem to care about the students."

Cameron Pelletier, a second-year marketing student from Niagara, is in South Carolina participating in the exchange program. He is staying an extra year to get his associate degree in marketing.

Sarah Vogt, 20, a second-year Business Administration - Human Resources Management program student, Julie Tannahill, 22, and Jodi St. Amand, 21, both accounting students, went to South Carolina for the exchange last January and returned in April.

All three students volunteered for the exchange, just as Davis did.

"My gut just said go," said Vogt.

The students stayed with Tom and Debbie Edwards for the duration of their term.

"The family we stayed with were really great," said St. Amand.

Bonnie Martel, co-ordinator of the Business Administration-Accounting program, said the exchange program is "very beneficial to students involved."

Grad photos start Nov. 10

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

Graduating this year? Or perhaps you just have a fetish for gowns and tassels.

For four days starting Nov. 10, photographer Bryan Groff will be at the Niagara College's Welland campus taking graduation portraits.

At each sitting, five traditional poses will be taken. Proofs will be sent to students and there is no obligation to order. For those who wish to order, packages start at $24.

Photos will also be used in this year's edition of the Grad Book, which has no cost to graduates.

This year Groff will have a number of different backgrounds to choose from to give students more variety in their photos.

Students can have special effects done for a $3 charge payable at the time of the sitting.

Since available sittings are limited, book now with Cindy Blanchard at the SAC office, Ext. 7659.

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Federal government hiring students

By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

The federal government is hiring.

The Federal Student Work Experience Program aims at hiring secondary and post-secondary students.

The program is a computerized national inventory of students who want to work for the federal government. This inventory is administered by the Public Service Commission of Canada.

Janet Forfar, Niagara College's career service officer, says, "The biggest appeal is customs and immigration positions at the border."

This past April, post-secondary students became eligible for up to 12 months of full-time work. Secondary students can work up to eight months full time.

Applications are available at the Employment Services offices at all Niagara College campuses.

A federal Internet address was introduced this year because of a "shortage of applications (forms)" in previous years. Applications can also be completed at the Internet address: http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/jobs.htm.

There is no general inventory application deadline. However, some departments do have deadlines.

Submissions began Oct. 14.

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We are accepting registrations for the January-Start Journalism-Print program for 1998. This fast-track start allows you to complete your two-year diploma in compressed study terms. For information call 905-735-2211 Ext. 7753 or the Admissions Office.

Bridging cultural gaps important

By BRADEN TANGUAY
Staff Writer

Positive experiences through cultural sharing is an important goal for the college's Aboriginal Education Access Office (AEAO).

AEAO is investigating ways to promote cultural sharing by providing different avenues and workshops for students.

"Students and faculty have many skills to offer," says Russ Blackbird, the college's aboriginal cultural promotion and outreach officer. "We would like to bring people together to work on many different projects."

Blackbird says the access office hopes to establish workshops at the college to bring students together.

RUSS BLACKBIRD

"The college is a community, so we should learn about the people in our community. These initiatives will try to bridge the gap between different cultures."

'We would like . . . to work on many different projects.' - Russ Blackbird

Workshops the AEAO hopes to establish will include leatherwork and beadwork and making items such as necklaces, moccasins and any other items students wish to design.

"Anyone who is interested is welcome to come in and give ideas. These workshops are something that people can share and work on together."

Blackbird says the access office is continually adding new and positive outlets for the college community to give something back to the college.

"The college provides many activities for native students. We would like to provide something to non-native students that shows something positive about our culture. The idea behind something like this is that it provides a positive experience and allows everyone to see a different cultural perspective."

No definite plans have been made for the workshops. Some may be operating before Christmas and many more will be offered in the new year, Blackbird says. "We are hoping people will come together and share in something that will be good for everyone."

He says bridging cultural gaps is an important step for everyone. "We want to establish links between people . . . making people feel better about themselves and everyone else. By bringing people together students can feel comfortable about the college environment where we all live."

For information about the workshops contact Blackbird or Wendy-Johnson-Martin at 735-2211, ext. 7414 or 7411.

Winning ticket

By DAVE CONROY
Staff Writer

Robin Gilmour, of St. Catharines, was the grand prize winner of a 1998 Ford Windstar minivan in a raffle sponsored by Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival and Niagara College.

The draw was made at the final performance of Mrs. Warren's Profession on Oct. 26.

A North York, Ont., resident won the second prize, an 18kt gold platinum ring set with a 2.11 carat mine-cut diamond and emerald baguettes.

Jessie R. Morrison, of Vineland, won two tickets to each production of the Shaw's 1998 season.

The Cut Above Raffle was a joint fund-raising event between the Shaw Festival and Niagara College with monies raised benefiting the Shaw Festival Theatre Foundation and Niagara's Double Your Dollars Student Bursary fund.

It marked the first time these two Niagara organizations have worked together to raise funds, said Martha Gleddie, special events co-ordinator for the Niagara College Foundation.

Exactly 1,004 raffle tickets were sold at Niagara. About $10,000 was raised and will go to needy college students.

"We are pleased with the money raised," said Christopher Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm.

SAC spends money on students

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

The Student Adminstrative Council (SAC) has spent $30,248.69 in October. SAC has spent $116,594.91 over the past two months.

View An Ad, a company from Toronto, did the advertising for the yearbook and the student handbook.

KPMG, Peat Marwick & Thorne is an auditing company from Toronto. The $2,910 is a payment for SAC's audit back in June.

"It costs about $6,000 a year for a college audit," said SAC president Don Woodruff.

Redline Promotions is a Scarborough company that ran the Air Olympics. The $2,415 was the last installment of the bill.

Punchline Promotions is a company based in Etobicoke that produces materials and items such as T-shirts and hats.

These are a few of the funds committed by the Student Administrative Council in October.

View An Ad	$10,295.02
KPMG, Peat Marwick & Thorne	$ 2,910.00
Redline	$ 2,415.00
Punchline Promotions	$ 1,897.50
Uniglobe	$ 1,420.00
Scott McClelland	$ 1,284.00
Buffalo Sabres	$ 1,254.00
Laser FX	$ 850.00

"The $1,897.50 is a payment for materials like pens and key chains that SAC will hand out to students," said Woodruff.

Uniglobe is a travel agency in Welland. During Orientation, a student won a trip to go where ever he wanted within a certain price range. SAC has covered the $1,420 trip, but will be reimbursed by the college, said Woodruff.

SAC has planned for a sports excursion to Buffalo to watch a game by the Buffalo Sabres hockey team. The $1,254 is the price for tickets for the trip to be held sometime in February.

Laser FX is a Toronto company that put on a laser show during a regular pub night at After Hours.

The $781.81 paid to Bazaar & Novelty was for hats given out at the Oktoberfest Pub at After Hours.

SAC's monthly bill for photocopying costs was $436.75, which was paid to Xerox Canada Ltd.

Proud Canadians

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

The International Micro-Electronics and Packaging Society (IMAPS) at Niagara College's Welland campus proved to be a worthy competitor.

Niagara College's IMAPS group won $500 US for the best student booth display and presentation.

The IMAPS representatives attended a symposium held in Philadelphia, Pa., at the Philadelphia Convention Centre during the week of Oct. 12 to 16.

The IMAPS group from Niagara included six students and two staff advisors.

The symposium was held by the International Society of Hybrid Micro-Electronics (ISHM).

"The gathering was put on by the ISHM group," said Janet Bradley, of St. Catharines, president of the college's IMAPS.

The event continued throughout the week with "professional development courses" on Sunday and Monday, said Bradley.

Students from schools such as Niagara College, Penn State University and Virginia Tech University were invited to the session at no cost.

On Oct. 14, the symposium "kicked off," Bradley said.

Companies from throughout the world set up booths to display their "new technology and specialized equipment," she said.

Niagara College, the only Canadian group attending the gathering, set up a student booth "to show off what the college is all about," Bradley said.

"The graduating class worked hard on the display."

Niagara's IMAPS presentation consisted of a CD ROM created by the group with help from the Gateway Multimedia project at Niagara.

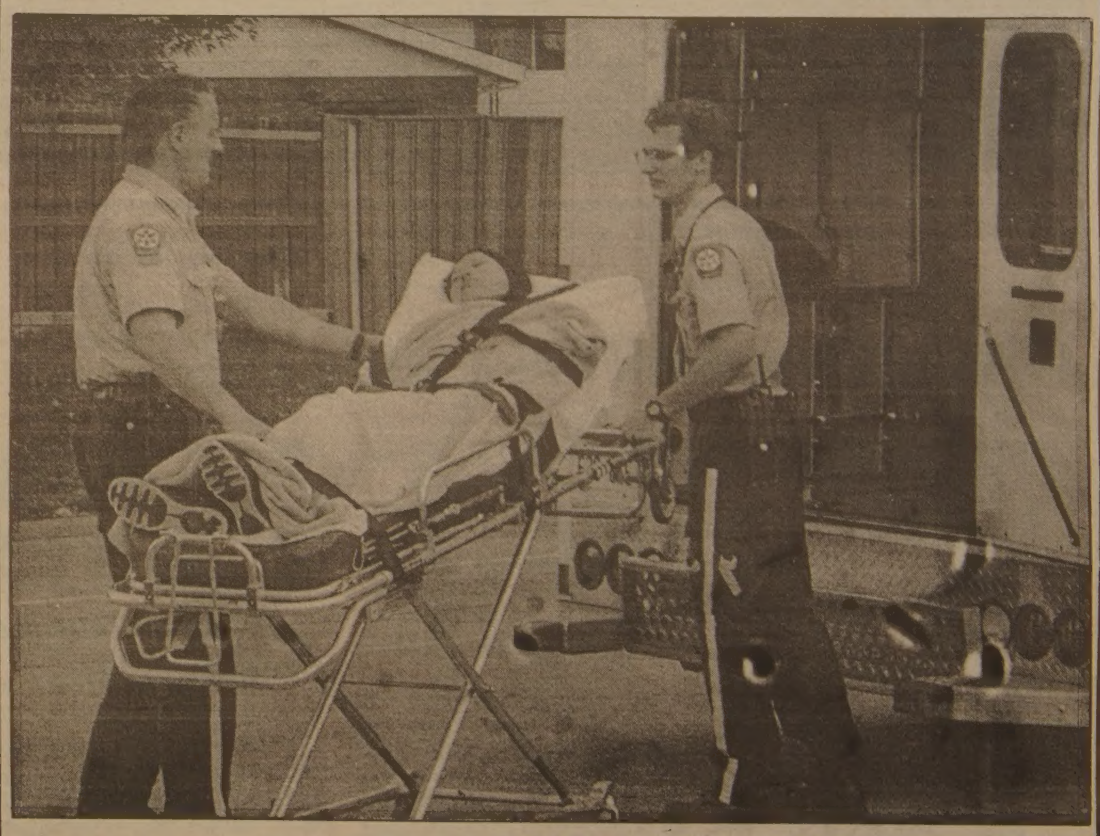
On the CD was a video of students working on the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers (IEEE) equipment, course descriptions, a biography of the program's professor, Richard Furbacher, and student resumes accompanied by pictures taken by Niagara's Journalism-Print program students.

IMAPS handed out the CDs to those who were interested in the college.

Bradley said the experience was "an eye- opener" for most of the students involved.

"It gave them a feel for the market."

Student shaken after accident



Hay Hee Yeom, 19, of Welland, a first-term Level 2 English as a Second Language program student from Korea, is taken to Welland County General Hospital after being struck by a car while crossing the intersection of First Avenue and Woodlawn Road on Oct. 31. Yeom suffered no serious injuries.

Photo by Dan Dakin

Red Cross refuses Italian blood donor

'Gift of life' has restrictions

By JENN WALKER
Staff Writer

I am going to share a disturbing story with you. Although I heard it months ago, I cannot get it out of my mind.

It is a story of an elderly Hamilton woman of Italian descent. She walked into a blood donor clinic with the intent of banking her own blood. She wanted to do this in case she needs the blood one day. She is denied this opportunity.

Why? She does not speak French or English. The staff could not understand her. There was nothing she could do.

"The gift of life" has restrictions. One is that people who do not speak one of our official languages may not bring interpreters in with them.

The Canadian Red Cross explains that giving blood is a "personal" experience. Gimme a break. I donated in my high school gymnasium in front of dozens of classmates. There was nothing personal about it.

If they are going to have restrictions why not start by restricting unsafe blood? This organization could have brought so much pride to this country. Instead, they have brought us fear, grief and heartache.

Restricting people of other descents by not allowing interpreters to be involved (even those who are family members) makes no sense in a mulicultural society.

The Red Cross has been crying for blood for months, yet there are people willing to donate, but maybe they don't speak English or French. With so many people in need of blood, why have this restriction?

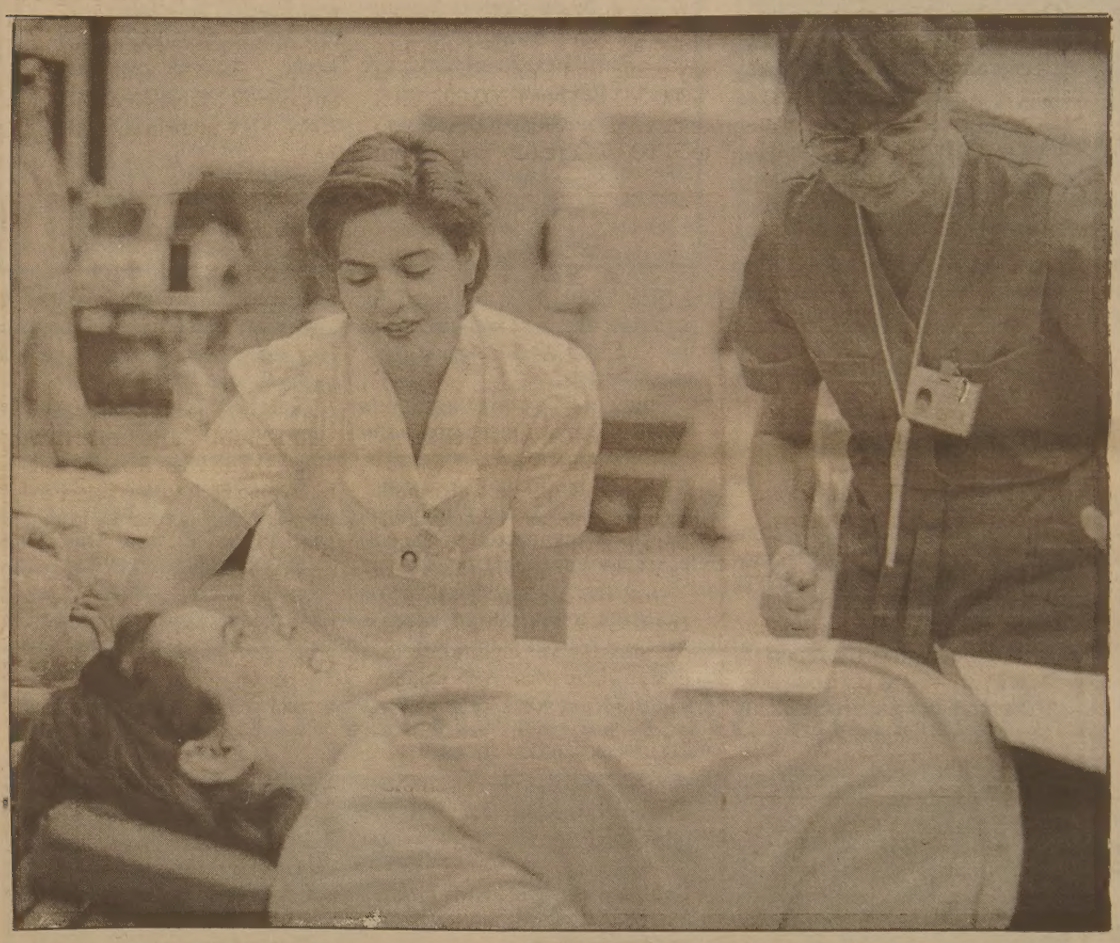
'Instead they have brought us fear, grief and heartache.'

I doubt very much if these sick people care which language the person who gave the blood speaks. Isn't the purpose to *save* lives?

Maybe Quebec has the right idea. The province said it will be taking control over its own blood supply.

Until the Red Cross changes its rules and puts an end to unsafe blood being available, we should all cross our fingers so Canadians of every descent will be guaranteed the right to give and receive safe blood.

Staff, students roll up sleeves for blood bank



Jennifer Cote, 20, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, smiles at the nurses as she gives blood for the second time.

Photo by Jeannie Orban

By JEANNIE ORBAN
Staff Writer

"I think that this was a good clinic," said Jan Potton, psychology teacher and chairperson for the Red Cross Welland branch, about the Niagara College blood donor clinic held Oct. 31.

There were 244 donations and 152 pints of blood collected. For 81 of the donors, it was their first time. This was the first time the pulse rate and blood pressure of donors was taken and was a factor in most of the 42 deferrals.

Nine staff members donated this year. The staff donor award will be going to the Health and Community Studies division for the two donations made by the Paramedic program teachers.

The Corpsuckle Cup award, which goes to the program with the highest percentage of donors, will be going to the Paramedic program for the 17 per cent of the students in the program who donated.

The first-year Law and Security Administration (LASA) program students will be receiving the Buddy Blood Drop Junior award for donating 28 pints of blood.

The awards will likely be presented by the end of November.

More than 100 students from other programs donated.

"I was really pleased to see so many other programs represented," said Potton.

About 18 to 20 people, not from the college, also donated blood.

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Gwen House, a Business Administration and Marketing program student and second-time donor here, said she donates "because I like to give blood. I think it's a good thing to do. They're pretty organized here."

Herb Sanderson, 19, a LASA program student and first-time donor, said he would do it again "to be helpful."

Bradley Bullough, 19, of the Computer Engineering program student who donated for the third time, said he gives blood because "maybe, eventually I'll need it."

Giving blood means giving life

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

On Friday, Oct. 31 at about 11:45 a.m. I gave someone a chance at life. I donated blood.

This was the second time I have donated my blood. I felt more satisfied than I had the first time.

The whole, careful process took about two hours. This was more time than I was happy with, since I hadn't donated my blood yet. Still, I figured a few lost minutes of my time was surely worth someone's life.

Once there was an available cot, I laid down and waited for the nurse to prepare me. She sterilized my arm and then, with barely a tiny pinch of pain, I was able to see my blood flowing into a bag to be used to save a human life. This took five minutes.

I realized my used time couldn't compare to what that red liquid was going to mean to someone else.

Before leaving, I was encouraged to take any of the numerous stickers, pins, bookmarks, pamphlets and bumper stickers available.

'. . . I gave someone a chance at life.'

I chose a bookmark for the message written on it: "When you give blood, you give another day at the beach, another hike in the woods, another night under the stars, another smile, another hug, another chance. Every 20 seconds someone thanks you. Please give blood."

I second that. Please give.

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Maid of the Mist open house set for Nov. 15

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism (MOMC), in Niagara Falls, is presenting its annual open house Nov. 15 to raise community awareness of the facility and its programs.

Geared towards the public, the open house will feature the skills of students in a variety of hospitality and tourism-related courses.

"Every program that is offered will have some type of display," says Jerry Salfi, communications officer for Niagara College.

The staff and students of MOMC are planning cooking and baking demonstrations, a wine and mixology lab and a demonstration of casino dealing skills.

Although Salfi emphasized the educational value of the open house, he was quick to point out the principal fringe benefit of attending.

"People will be able to go through the whole centre and sample foods," he said.

MOMC's Central Stores will be open, allowing anyone to purchase a wide variety of foods ranging from simple dishes to whole meals, all of which have been prepared by students in MOMC programs.

The open house is an opportunity for anyone thinking of pursuing a college education to learn about all aspects of Niagara College.

Salfi said representatives from the college's administrative offices will be in the MOMC foyer to answer questions about registration, admission requirements, financial aid, continuing education, co-ops, peer tutoring and special needs programs for all the college campuses.

"Everyone is welcome," he said, adding about 200 people attended last year's function.

Everyone who attends will also have the opportunity to win one of several door prizes.

The open house takes place at the Maid of the Mist Centre, 5881 Dunn St., in Niagara Falls on Nov. 15 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Police and Crime Stoppers offer pointers

Criminals often regard older persons as easy targets for various types of crime. Seniors, however, should be aware of these crimes and take steps to reduce the opportunities for criminals.

AT HOME

Install good locks and always use them. Don't leave telltale signs that you are away, and never open your door to a stranger without seeing that person's credentials.

ON THE STREET

Whenever possible, walk in well-lit areas. Do not burden yourself with packages and a bulky purse. Do not carry large sums of money.

IN YOUR CAR

Always lock your vehicle after entering it and when leaving it unattended. If you have car trouble, raise the hood, lock yourself in and wait for the police. If a stranger stops to offer help, do not get out of your car. Ask the stranger to call a service truck for you. If you suspect that someone is following you, drive to the nearest public place (gas station, all-night restaurant) and blow your horn.

One other thing that seniors should be cautious of is the phoney bank examiner. Do not trust phone callers who identify themselves as bank personnel and ask you to withdraw money from your account in order to try to catch a dishonest teller. Banks don't phone customers asking them to withdraw sums of cash. A Niagara resident was the victim of this scam in the summer of 1997.

If you have information about a crime against a senior citizen or any crime, call Crime Stoppers at -800-263-8477 or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police, in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc., writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax-deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7A3.

Crime increases over Christmas

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

The holiday season has nearly arrived. It is a time of family gatherings, gift giving and . . . crime?

"As Christmas approaches, the chances of theft increase dramatically," says Heather Hodgson, coordinator of Niagara College's Law and Security Administration program (LASA).

Campus Watch will continue to be on the front lines of efforts combatting crime on campus.

Students in LASA must complete Campus Watch shifts as part of their community policing course. They patrol the campus under the direction of campus security, observing and reporting any unusual activities.

In addition, Campus Watch students escort people to their vehicles.

Campus Watch has received recognition for foiling an attempted theft of a vehicle, a robbery, as well as stopping an impaired driver.

Rick Demers, 47, Niagara's supervisor for health, safety and security, said a major set of thefts occurred around last December. Police and college security successfully resolved the incidents.

Students can take certain precautions to help prevent crime.

Hodgson advises students to not leave wallets, purses or other valuables unattended in classrooms.

If you have a vehicle, ensure it is locked, and valuable items are concealed in your trunk or glove box.

If something is stolen or damaged on college property, report it to security as well as police.

"Reporting incidents is essential for security (personnel) to prevent or detect crimes," Hodgson said.

Parents, children spend day at work

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

Niagara College welcomed many parents and their children to their annual "Take Our Kids to Work" day on Nov. 5.

Bob Holder, an electronic engineering technologist, gave the students an opportunity to design their own Web pages. The students got a kick out of seeing their pictures on the computers, recording their personal interests, and viewing sample Web pages on the Internet that other students created.

The Human Resources Department organized a pizza luncheon for the parents and children at noon.

Dale Zinatelli, a library technician for 25 years at the college, said her son Carlo, 15, from Notre Dame High School, will be coming back to the college to help her sign out books in the library after his "interesting experience today."

Hal Baird, a telecommunications administrator for four years, taught his daughter Sarah, 13, from Centennial High School in Welland, how to program a telephone extension and voice mailbox.

Barb Gregor, 39, of Port Colborne, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, had no choice but to bring her daughter, Heather, 10, to school because of the teachers' protest in Ontario.

"I just moved so babysitters are scarce," Gregor said.

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Changes to OSAP leave students in the dark

By ALEX HALMAI
Staff Writer

The provincial government was busy making changes to the Ontario Students Assistance Plan (OSAP) last summer, but it forgot to tell students.

A mixture of questionable timing and a lack of communication to students on the part of the government left Niagara College's registrar's office with some "concerns for returning students since they had an impression of the program (OSAP), from their first or second year," said Elaine Grandmaison, the college's associate registrar.

"The program (OSAP) was changed during the application period."

The standard OSAP application booklet had no indication of any changes to the program.

The only document, *What's New in OSAP for 1997-98*, was sent to returning students in late July, and contained only some of the changes to the program, even though "the majority of students apply in June," said Richard Jackson, senior policy analyst of post-secondary education for the student support branch of the ministry of education and training.

On her own accord, Grandmaison put together a fact sheet in early May containing the limited amount of information she was aware of at the time.

The fact sheet was available alongside OSAP application forms at all Niagara College campuses.

However, the guidelines for OSAP assessment were still changing and limited the fact sheet's ability to inform students of the major changes.

The effectiveness of Grandmaison's fact sheet was also limited in its capacity to reach all applying students since application forms are available at college campuses, but also at all high schools.

Students who applied from outside the Niagara Region would not have had access to Grandmaison's fact sheet.

"We were fighting on the students' behalf," she said. "It's now a very difficult program to get the money students were used to in previous years. We did what we felt was the best we could do in order to get the information out."

While changes have affected almost every aspect of the program, the major ones include raising the minimum pre-study student contribution from $1,120 for the 16 weeks prior to returning to college, to $2,087 over that same period.

The student earning allowance during the 33-week study period has been decreased from $1,500 to $600, meaning that if the student will earn more than $600 during the study period, the student must contribute 80 per cent of every dollar after the $600 received from OSAP.

Assets such as a vehicle with a value more than $5,000 will result in a $1,000 decrease in the OSAP amount.

Jackson called the changes a "relatively minor adjustment."

The basis for changing the OSAP program was to evoke a larger contribution from students.

"Student assistance is there to supplement personal and family assistance, not replace it," said Jackson.

Asked how returning students should be expected to have been prepared for changes to OSAP they were unaware of until late July, Jackson said, "We tried to do our best to get the information out." He referred to a 1-900 number and a new Web site to check the status of a loan. Neither sources contain information about changes to the OSAP program.

"I had no reason to believe I wouldn't be receiving as much assistance as I did in the year before," said Nicole Young, 31, of British Columbia, a second-year Dental Hygiene program student. "I might have moved into a cheaper place."

Asked why the government couldn't wait until after the main application period to begin its changes to OSAP, Jackson had no direct comment but said, "In hindsight, there are a lot of things that could have been done differently."

"Plan and be prepared (for changes to OSAP) was all (the government) had to say to forewarn returning students," said Grandmaison.

Chris Papaj, 26, of Welland, a second-year Computer Programmer Analyst program student, said he was never informed of any changes and he would like an explanation of not only what was changed but why.

"I don't even have enough money to pay the rent," he said. "If I would have known of the changes I would have prepared differently."

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PERSONALITY

Calling All Bands! Book Your Spot In *"Riding the Riff"*

Wit belies Richler's demeanor

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

Best-selling novelist and nationally treasured curmudgeon Mordecai Richler made an appearance at the sold-out Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne Nov. 3 to read from his latest novel, Barney's Version.

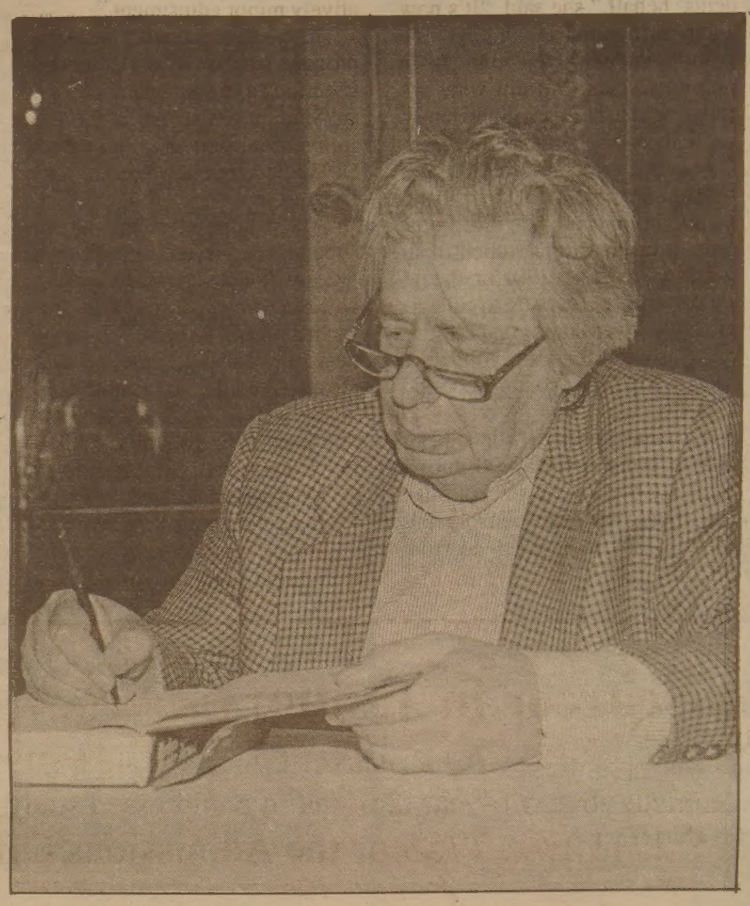
His opening comments showed a wit that belied his crusty demeanor.

"There is a sign on the front door which reads 'Mordecai Richler Sold Out,' which I thought was very ambiguous," said Richler, cracking a smile at the howling audience.

He then proceeded to read a lengthy passage from the opening chapter of Barney's Version, a novel about the life of Barney Panofsky, an aging television producer, as seen through Panofsky's eyes while he is writing his memoirs.

The passage gave Panofsky's erratic recollections of everything from characteristics of his three wives to ordinary experiences from several different periods in his life. However, the entire passage is riddled with interruptions as Panofsky struggles to remember the name of "the thingumabob you use to strain spaghetti."

The appreciative crowd laughed uproariously throughout Richler's reading, but there was a hint of sadness in the eyes of the most astute among them as it became clear that Panofsky was suffering from the early effects of Alzheimer's disease.



Author Mordecai Richler signs copies of his new novel, Barney's Version, after reading to a capacity crowd at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne Tuesday night.
Photo by Kevin Harding

When Richler finished his reading, he opened the floor to questions and, when nobody dared to raise a hand, he added, "It's okay. I won't bite."

A woman in the audience then stood up and told Richler she had given her husband one of his novels for Christmas and it made him "sick to his stomach" because of the coarse language found inside.

Richler's only response was this: "Next time I would suggest that you get him a book with pictures."

When asked to give advice to aspiring writers, Richler was reluctant to respond, but he eventually suggested that writers must read and write as much as they can in order to "acquire more skill at the craft."

"Serious working writers work every day," said Richler. "They don't wait for what some people call inspiration or it would be 15 years between novels."

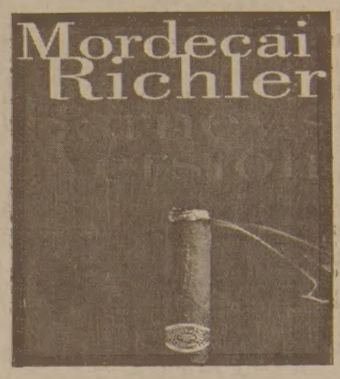
Finally, Richler answered the question about Barney's Version he hears most often. A man stood and asked him whether or not the novel is autobiographical.

"When I wrote the novel, which took me three years, I was Barney Panofsky, but not before and not after," replied Richler. "He is a man who, unfortunately, messed up his life and I haven't done that . . . yet."

Richler, in keeping with his reputation for irreverence, appeared at the Roselawn Centre despite the fact Barney's Version was shortlisted for the prestigious $25,000 Giller Prize and he was supposed to read at Chapters in Toronto as a result.

Richler's son, Daniel, read in his father's place there. More than 260 people in the Port Colborne area are glad he did.

A life's work



By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

Mordecai Richler's novels, listed here, have become some of the most celebrated and studied works of fiction ever written by a Canadian:

- The Acrobats (1954)
- Son of a Smaller Hero (1955)
- The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz (1959)
- The Incomparable Atuk (1963)
- Cocksure (1968)
- St. Urbain's Horseman (1971)
- A Choice of Enemies (1973)
- Joshua Then and Now (1980)
- Solomon Gursky Was Here (1989)
- Barney's Version (1997)

10th novel captures prestigious Giller prize

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

World-renowned Canadian author Mordecai Richler was awarded the prestigious Giller Prize for his 10th novel, Barney's Version, at a black-tie dinner in Toronto Tuesday night.

"I'm very honored and pleased," the 67-year-old Montreal native told the Globe and Mail.

Richler, who has served as a Giller judge in the past, described the selection process as a lottery.

"It's a literary crapshoot," said Richler who was accompanied at the gala event by his wife Florence and two of his three sons, "Anyone on the short list would have been an honorable winner of this very generous prize."

Barney's Version is the story of an aging television producer named Barney Panofsky who is struggling to write the memoirs of his failed life.

This year's Giller judges were broadcaster Peter Gzowski, short story writer Mavis Gallant and Ontario author Bonnie Burnard.

The Giller Prize was created in 1994 by Jack Rabinovich in honor of his late wife, Doris Giller, a literary journalist who wrote for the Toronto Star.

Creating opportunities for college students

Director plays important role

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

She's been at Niagara College for 23 years. She's a director of 75 teachers. Not many people, however, know about the woman behind the scenes of an unknown, but important, division at Niagara College.

Bea Clark, director of the college's Ventures Division, began working for Niagara College in 1974.

She has a bachelor's degree in arts and education and German from the University of Buffalo and a Science in Educational Administration master's degree from Niagara University.

She became director of the Ventures division in 1996 and oversees 35 full-time staff, and 40 to 50 part-time teachers.

The division is responsible for bringing in $9 million of the college's revenue every year, says Clark.

The Ventures Division organizes workplace preparation programs, workplace development programs, workplace learning programs and workplace partnerships.

The division is located in the Foster Wheeler building in St. Catharines next to the new Glendale campus.

Since being employed with the college, she has worked for the finance area and has been a past Continuing Education Manager. She also has done extensive work with the professional development of part-time teachers in the early 1980s, aside from working full time for the college.

In 1988, she had the opportunity to travel to China as part of an ongoing project in management and teacher training.

"Their approach was a little different than ours. We had some good discussions," says Clark.

Group photos representing past workshops are displayed over four bookshelves in her office. They are a tribute to the workshops she's been involved with throughout her career.

"It allowed me to start things at the college that are still in existence."

Other responsibilities include marketing and communicating about products and services to present and potential clients.

She describes her work as one which focuses on "the other areas related to the college outside of the post-secondary programs."

"My work focuses on creating opportunities for the rest of the college."

On any given day, Clark's schedule is varied but she insists on putting customer service high on her list of priorities. A good part of her day is spent interacting with staff discussing new business opportunities.

Throughout her service at Niagara, Clark says she is most proud of her work with the Professional Development Committee formed in conjunction with five other colleges. She chaired that group for a number of years.

"I like the people side of my job a lot."

She currently sits on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourism and Economic Management Committee and continues to host Continuing Education seminars in the fall and winter for new part-time teachers.

Clark is married and has one son. She has lived in the Niagara Region since 1973. Her husband, John, is a professor in the Computer Engineering Technology diploma program at Niagara College.

EDITORIAL

Niagara News

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-8112.**

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Everyone hurt by protest

The last strike by teachers was with a ruler, for disciplinary reasons. Students have been hit hard once again.

We used to live in a time when education was optional. If you didn't want to work on the family farm, you would attend high school as an alternative. We now live in a time when an education is a necessity for a good future.

It looks as if our future will consist of parents taking their youngsters to work, children glued to television sets as if it's a perpetual Saturday morning and teachers worrying about losing their jobs to less-qualified replacements.

The future of graduating high school students could be in jeopardy if even one semester is blown because of the teacher work stoppage.

Thousands of students won't complete the necessary work, forcing them to hold off graduating for another year. Next year's university and college enrolments may drop to an all-time low.

School sports teams are off the field, out of the arena and off the court, causing a setback for promising athletes. Now is time of year when athletic departments are competing fiercely to lure top high school athletes.

Elementary and secondary schools would become more like universities and colleges if Bill 160 is passed, with class sizes ballooning and teachers coming from businesses and construction sites rather than from teacher's college.

That's one smack on the hand that will be felt by all of us.

Mark Riehl

Bitter struggle over Bill 160

The bitter struggle between teachers and the provincial government over Bill 160 is primarily a labor dispute that does very little to address some of the fundamental problems within the education system.

Bill 160 contains no specified levels at which class size or preparation times are to be set. The debate is over whether these levels should be set at the bargaining table during contract negotiations or set at the whim of the government — a labor issue if ever there was one.

When this issue is settled, for better or worse, the government should focus on what is actually done in the classrooms for a change.

Most important of all, will the province take the necessary steps to have written English rigorously taught in our classrooms again? After all, there are students graduating from high schools across Ontario and going on to college or university who think "conjugation" refers to the crowd at a church.

The teaching of grammar was slowly removed from curricula as rote learning fell out of fashion and was replaced by programs designed to make students "think for themselves."

At one time, grammar was taught by the breaking down of sentences into their constituent parts. Terms such as "subordinate clause," "subjective completion" and "misplaced modifier" were used to teach the science of grammatical construction. This practice was discontinued when it was discovered that (gasp!) students found it tedious.

Unfortunately, today nobody can tell whether most students are able to think for themselves or not because they are unable to bump a subject into a predicate and express their ideas.

Perhaps, if we wait long enough, all of those misplaced modifiers will turn up on their own.

Kevin Harding

What is Bill 160?

Dear Editor:

Why would almost 126,000 teachers, including most principals, stay out of their classrooms and close virtually every school in Ontario?

Instead of being upset with the teachers for causing some temporary problems to our daily lives, the citizens of Ontario should be pondering this question: What is in Bill 160 that would make so many teachers feel that this is their only option?

Some people have accused teachers of being self-serving in this protest. Nothing could be further from the truth!

If I were selfish, I would go into my school and collect my regular pay cheque.

My husband is also a teacher and together we are voluntarily sacrificing our own comfort, not to mention our salaries!

Why would I give up the opportunity to do what I love most, which is to be in front of my 30 Grade 5/6 students helping them to learn?

Again I ask the question: What is in Bill 160 that has so many people who normally like to compromise and "not create waves" take to the streets in this manner?

Please get a copy of Bill 160 from your local member of the provincial parliament. But be ready to read for a very long time! There are over 250 pages in this bill.

The government wants the public to believe this bill is about improving the quality of education. If it were, all teachers would put their full support behind it! No one wants our students to do better than the teachers do!

Bill 160 is not about reforming education. There is nothing in the bill about standardized tests and report cards. Bill 160 will increase class size, contrary to what (Ontario Premier) Mike Harris wants us to believe.

Unqualified teachers will teach our classes. You probably don't even want an unqualified person to cut your hair! Why would you want any less for your children?

Bill 160 will not give us "savings," as Premier Harris wants us to believe, but rather, Bill 160 will cut educational funding by almost another billion dollars.

Bill 160 will begin a decline in public education unlike anything else in the history of Ontario. Bill 160 will put total control of education in the hands of the Harris Cabinet, without having to go through the normal legislative processes inherent in a democratic government.

The people of Ontario should fear the destructive effects of Bill 160 much more than any "irreparable damage" done to the children through the protest of the teachers. If the teachers are forced back into class and Bill 160 becomes law on Nov. 17, it is the children of Ontario who will lose, not the teachers. It is the children who will suffer its effects, not the teachers.

If you care about public education and equal opportunities for all children in this democratic country of Canada, you will support the protest against Bill 160, instead of concerning yourselves with any inconvenience that this temporary closure of our schools may have caused. If you don't, you may one day rue the day!

Arja Nesbitt
St. Catharines teacher
at Lincoln Centennial School

Mature student bothered

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in regard to a recent article in the Niagara News (Vol. 28 No. 3, Oct. 24) entitled *Defining a mature student.*

Although the article had no significance or purpose, I, as a mature student, was bothered by the tone that was set.

I'm also sure that your intentions were not to insult or rate this so-called group.

I can't help but see it as if the article was in a way saying that mature students are academically lower than a traditional student.

I am a mature student and a top graduate of my high school. I define a mature student as exactly that and don't see myself as having very different problems from anyone else.

I'm interested in reading your future articles of this series.

Aaron Beaudoin
First-year Journalism-Print program

CORRECTION

Our readers are pretty sharp.

Within moments of publishing **(Vol. 28, No. 3, Oct. 24)**, four errors were pinpointed.

Wrong information was published about the cost of tickets for last night's food festival at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls. Tickets cost $25 a person and $45 a couple.

In the Word on Campus, Lyndon Barrett's name was misspelled.

In the movie review of Hamlet, page 20, Kenneth Branagh's name was also misspelled.

Meanwhile, in an article about the Women into Trades and Technology program, it was incorrectly written a co-op placement program was being established. In fact, the co-op program is being extended, not established.

Finally, our Horoscope contained an omission. We forgot Scorpio. To all those Scorpios, we're sorry. It won't happen again.

The Editors

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

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FROM THE HIP

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Dream vacation or credit card fraud?

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

You've been told you have won a beautiful cruise for two to the Bahamas.

The only thing standing between you and a sunny, sandy beach are a few numbers on a credit card. What do you do?

Intelligence is not an issue when you find yourself trapped in a scam.

Two years have passed since my mother won a trip for four to Universal Studios in Florida. She was just as excited when, one night last month, she was told she had won another trip, in a contest she had entered, by ballot, at the Canadian National Exhibition this summer.

The woman on the telephone from Travel Group Inc. painted an almost perfect picture of a once-in-a-lifetime dream vacation until the subject began to focus on money.

This "agency" said they needed a confirmation fee of $150 for my mother's reservation in Florida (the cruise departure port), by which they meant they needed a credit card number.

After that came the next trick:

Scams can lure anyone at any time despite his or her intelligence.

soaking my mother for $600 for transportation to Florida and back.

A three-day stay in Orlando, three days in Fort Lauderdale, and a six-day cruise to the Bahamas would never cost as little as $2,000, as they claimed it would, even with the $600 travel exemption. Also, the added feature of accommodation at all five-star hotels would amount to a considerable fee of a few thousand dollars plus food costs.

My mother feels like a fool because she succumbed to the agency's grandiose travel "prize" and released her credit card number.

My mother called MasterCard to check if Travel Group Inc., in Pittsburgh, had tried to withdraw money.

Lo and behold, the $150 they claimed they only needed as a confirmation rose to a fee of more than $800, which the agency tried to charge. Luckily, my mother had her card charged almost to its limit with $207 to spare. However, she had just made a monthly $150 payment the previous day at her bank.

Scams can lure anyone at any time despite his or her intelligence. This is why these con-artists do this for a living.

They learn how to make their most innocent "victims" say and do things against their better judgment. They are very clever.

The lesson here. Buyer beware.

Life can be a risky business

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Risk. Don't knock it until you've tried it.

Taking a risk is something few people can do. A risk is an experience of crossing personal boundaries.

Expressing yourself in public is an example of risk. We have opportunities every day to express ourselves. Whether it be in the classroom or among friends, we have venues to voice our opinion.

We also have the choice to take advantage of these venues.

Expressing yourself may not involve vocally expressing your opinion. Sometimes the way you dress can express your outlook on life. A common stereotype associated with someone dressed in black is that of a person in mourning.

A risk is an experience of crossing personal boundaries.

Writing is another means of self-expression. Many articles have been written on the therapeutic benefits of keeping a diary or journal. A diary is a place to write your thoughts and worries, a place to write your emotions without having to be concerned about feedback.

Art can fill the space in your life a diary would otherwise take. Painting, designing and drawing are very good ways to express yourself.

Until you have taken a risk don't

make a fool of yourself by mocking those who have.

Those who take risks will be remembered. Those who don't will be remembered as being the audience for those who do.

Reality bites

By ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

Every day we are bombarded with the words "real world."

These two words are usually uttered after such phrases as these: Learn to live in the, Deal with the, and Welcome to the. I have something to say to these people. Ease up!

Recently, I was told life at Niagara College is the real world and I should learn to deal with it. I am sorry, but the second I start considering college the "real world" is about the same moment I take up jumping off buildings as a pastime.

Now ask yourself, what makes school the real world?

The answers will vary, but they will have one thing in common. It's the fact you are in college to receive training. You can't be fired, however. Your rewards are based upon your efforts.

In the "real world," you must apply what it is you may or may not have learned in college to a specific trade. Some choose to avoid this and go to university after graduation.

Now don't get me wrong. School is a lot of work, but it is not the "real world." What we, as students, need is a little solidarity.

There should be no petty, esoteric competition between students. We are all here to learn, not to step on each other's feet.

Think about this next time you tell a fellow student to deal with the "real world."

Labor winning its battle against Harris

By JEFF SCHELHAS
Staff Writer

"Hey, Mr. Snobelen, no more teachers' dirty looks."

John Snobelen, Ontario's former minister of education and training, who dropped out of high school, was shipped to the less sweeping Ontario ministry of natural resources recently by Premier Mike Harris.

At first I thought, "Great!" a ministry with less responsibility, but I was wrong.

It appears Snobelen won't have an easier job in his new portfolio. Northern Ontario is unhappy with the provincial government and some of its decisions made in the past three years.

The Tories have diminished the road construction transfer payments. Adding to the discontent is gasoline prices, peaking at 72 cents a litre, much higher than those charged in the province's southern half.

In this tumult why would you put the "Cutting King" in charge of natural resources?

It must be a pressure reaction. With the Cabinet shuffle, the Tories folded. They've stood confidently rock solid throughout their mandate. But with the impending elementary and secondary school teachers' strike, I think Harris choked and gave the labor movement hope in dark times.

Harris must be hoping a new face at the helm of education will throw cold water on the blazing fire of teacher resentment and discontent.

Who knows? With the next provincial election three years away, maybe Snobelen can climb to greatness within his new ministry and not set any forest fires in the process.

Don't miss out on the events...
Read your newspaper tonight!

INTERNATIONAL

Environmental management with Thailand

By KATHLEEN McARTHUR
Staff Writer

A queen's palace, a living lab and a golf course were discussed as features of campuses.

A delegation representing two universities from Thailand is on an information tour of programs at Niagara College and Brock University in St. Catharines.

Dr. Nantana Santatiwut, director of the Centre for Industrial and Environmental Training of Burapha University, will be receiving her certification as a lead auditor.

The course covers the standard documentation of companies from an environmental and operational view. It also covers environmental legislation and regulations for the ISO 14000, an environmental management system to plan, monitor and continually improve a company's expansion of products and productivity while promoting environmental awareness.

This visit is the last leg of an ongoing project in environment management with Thailand.

Several members of the delegation have specific interests.

Wuttichai Keaw–wean, of the geography department of Burapha University, will observe the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program and the environmental studies for the ISO 14000.

Dr. Tuan Tongkeo, president of Rajabhat Institute in Rambhai Barni in Chantaburi, and Dr. Wisit Kitpreecha, of Rajabhat Institute Rambhai Barni Amphoe Muang, will focus their attention on one area of study.

The delegation will tour various companies including Consumers Gas, Ford, the Hamilton-Wentworth water distribution plant and Halton Region. They will also tour sites in Toronto and the Niagara Region.

The delegation met with Jon Ogryzlo, Niagara College's director for the Centre for Environmental Training; Al Unwin, co-ordinator of ecosystem restoration; Mike Webster, environmental researcher and analyst; and Alison Ortwein, the international project co-ordinator. They met at the Horticultural Centre in St. Catharines to discuss the differences in the education systems of the two countries.

The differences included the campuses themselves. For example, Burapha University was at one time a "queen's palace."

"The gardens are used for the agricultural and environmental programs," said Santatiwut in describing the university.

The Rajabhat Institute has "campuses all over Thailand" as well as "a golf course for the students and the faculity to use for recreation," said Tongkeo, adding the institute is similiar to the college in that aspect "where our programs are diplomas varying in lengths." The students at the institute will get a master's degree after four years.

Wuttichai Keaw-wean, of the geography department at Burapha University, examines mums while Jon Ogryzlo, director of Niagara College's Centre for Environmental Training, listens to Jim Thompson explain the pinching of leaves to Dr. Tuan Tongkaew, president of Rajabhat Institute and Dr. Nantana Santatiwut, Centre for Environmental Training, at Niagara College's Horticulture Centre on Oct. 27.

Photo by Kathleen McArthur

The college's new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be a "living lab" for the environmental and agribusiness students who will be there next September, said Ogryzlo.

He showed the designs of the campus, including the lagoons and the general layout for the greenhouses and the vineyard that will be part of the landscaping.

The delegation was given a tour of the greenhouses at the Horticultural Centre in St. Catharines, and shown the different ways the plants are warmed and in some cases kept cool. Samples of work by the students were on display from seedlings to the poinsettia plants, which will be sold to the public and at the campus bookstore this month.

The delegation and the college representatives noted the similar focus on testing and restoring the environment for the future. The information tour will provide suggestions and possible training techniques to add and share as well as to promote the environmental programs to industry and educational institutions.

New celebration for international students

By MINAKO YAMAGUCHI
Staff Writer

Ghosts and goblins visited the college's international students for whom Halloween was a new celebration.

The Halloween party was held on Oct. 31 at Niagara College's After Hours pub.

English as a Second Language (ESL) program students wore their own creative costumes. Some international students from the Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, also showed up.

For the potluck event, everyone brought food — food typical of their home countries' dishes or Canadian dishes which the students tried to cook.

"The food was really, really good, especially JaJung, a Korean dish," said Carolyn Ambrose, interim coodinator of the Intensive ESL program.

A dance contest was used to judge the best costumes. ESL teachers chose three females and three males to participate.

Ja Young Koh, 21, an ESL student from Korea, won the best prize for female costume dressed as an Indian woman named Pocahontas.

Hyon Ju Lee, 22, of Japan, an International Trade (Post-graduate) program student, won the best prize for the male costume, wearing "tropical nuts." He had everyone's attention at the party.

"Hyon Ju has come out of his shell," said Ambrose, laughing.

On Oct. 24, ESL students went to the Howell Family Pumpkin Farm at 2878 Holland Rd. in Fonthill, and bought pumpkins which they carved Halloween night before the party.

"I enjoyed visiting the farm. In Canada, they just don't grow pumpkins but make the farm a fun place to visit," said Hyun Duk Ches, 25, an ESL student from Korea.

A Korean student group, consisting of Shin Kweon Ahn, 25, Yu Jung Choi, 22 and Jeong-Sun Choi, 21, won first prize for the pumpkin on which they "creatively" carved three faces.

"(The party) was successful," said Ambrose, adding everyone was "a good sport, dressing in a costume."

"I was very excited, but embarrassed to wear a costume for the first time," said Keiko Tsuchida, 23, an ESL student from Japan.

"It was very fun and a pleasant experience."

Hyon Ju Lee, 22, of Japan, an International Trade (Post-graduate) program student, won the prize for the best male's costume, wearing "tropical nuts" at the Halloween party on Oct. 31 at Niagara College's After Hours pub.

Photo by Minako Yamaguchi

Warm donations to Indonesian principals

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Our friends from Indonesia are cold.

The 18 Indonesian principals visiting Niagara College are not accustomed to our cold weather and do not have appropriate winter attire. A plan has been put into action to help them be more comfortable and stay warm during the cold months ahead.

Donations of warm sweaters, winter jackets, hats, gloves and scarves are being accepted at the International Education Department in the Simcoe Building, room S102, at the Welland campus.

"They are pretty cold. They are not used to the cold temperatures here," said Jos Nolle, manager of the International Education Department.

If you would like to lend them some clothing and have it returned after the principals leave, please clearly mark the clothing with your name and phone number. You may also donate the clothing.

Lyn Russo, Niagara's director of communication and planning, notified the college community that the principals could use some help.

She said she hopes if she were visiting another country, residents there would do the same for her.

"It is a small neighborly thing that we can do while they are here," said Russo.

"They are here for a three-month period and would never have to use these heavy coats and sweaters at home. It is a waste of their money to buy them," said Nolle. "We will donate the clothing that people give us to the Salvation Army following their stay."

Nolle said the department has already received some items but would like to see more donations.

"We need a few more heavy jackets and sweaters."

He said it is not fair to give some of the principals clothing and forget about the others.

WELLAND HISTORY

141-year-old jailhouse to be gutted

The historic Welland courthouse at 102 East Main St. is slated for some changes early in the new year. That's when construction begins to demolish the old jail built with the courthouse in 1855-56.

Designed by Toronto architect Kivas Trilly, the jail has an interesting history. Public and private hangings have taken place there. The first hanging was in 1859 with the last one occurring in 1958. There was one double hanging in 1947.

Dave Thomas, regional hearings officer at the courthouse, is a history buff who gives occasional tours of the deserted facility to school children.

"I think every school class should come through here," he says, alluding to the idea tours might deter future criminals.

Standing in front of the trap door where prisoners once dropped to their deaths, he explains Canada's abolishing of the death penalty.

"Hangings were terrible," he says. "In one case of a lady in Belleville, Ont., because she was approximately 300 pounds, her head became detached from the trunk of her body. And that was the third time. The first two times she broke the rope.

"And you know the old saying — and of course it's not legally correct — that if they go to hang you and you don't die, you're just going to be put back into jail? That doesn't happen."

Some of the victims were buried in the jailyard and were later moved to Woodlawn Cemetery.

The courthouse includes a north and a south wing, each three-storeys high.

"There was a caste system. The caste system being that the worst criminals were on the lowest floor," Thomas says. "It's very damp in here. Unbelievably damp."

A well-behaved prisoner could earn his way up, literally, above ground level and to the south side of a wing. Here prisoners could enjoy the privilege of direct sunlight and a possible view of the city's public clock.

Troublesome prisoners were housed below on a wing's north side where little or no sunlight was available. The dampness of the ground-level cells was so intolerable that newspapers were sometimes set on fire for a few moments of warmth.

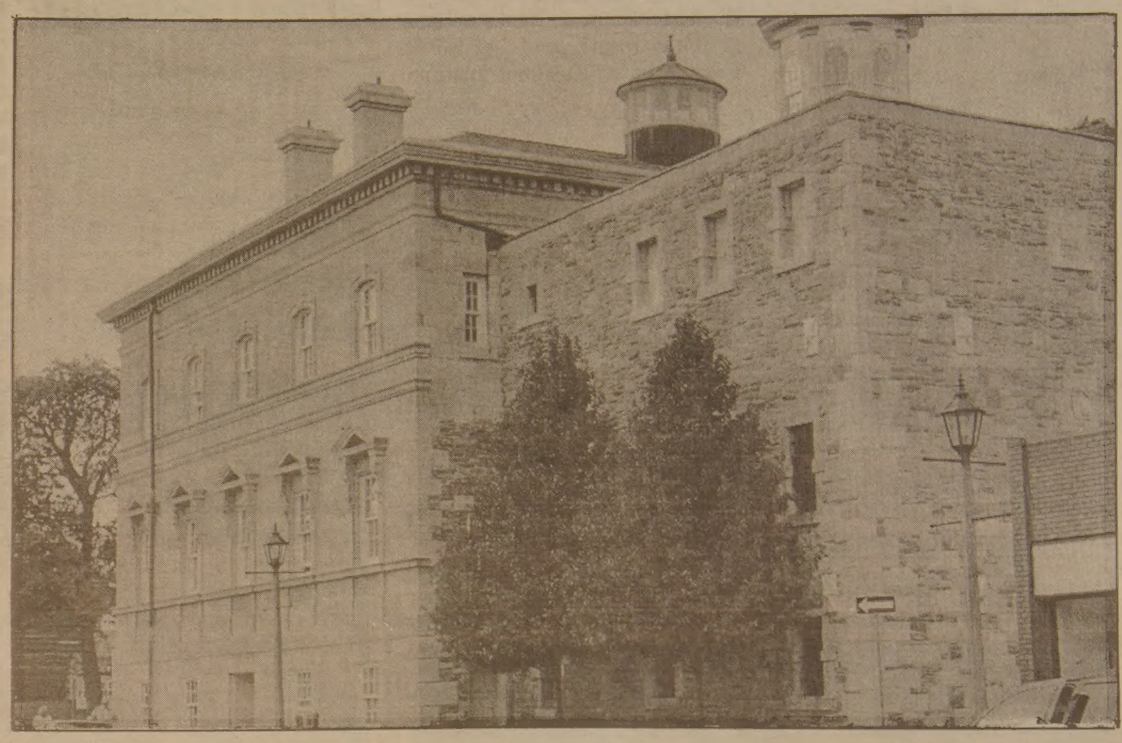
The top floor of the south wing was the women's section of the jail.

The very worst prisoners were kept in the most remote cells of a block. Here they were positioned directly in front of the common toilet of the cell block where they had to put up with the smell and embarrassment of having, for their view, other prisoners using the toilet.

There were no toilets in individual cells and a guard was required to let a prisoner out to use the flush toilet. If a prisoner couldn't wait for the cell to be opened, a bucket was used.

All the cells were tiny, with a doorway so small that a six-foot prisoner would have to watch his head going through.

"Now remember, they were locked up probably 23 of the 24 hours a day," Thomas says.



In the 19th century, prisoners at the Welland County jail were routinely whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails when entering the prison as well as when being released.

"There were two breakouts here," explains Thomas. "Only two. One guard — in fact, I went to school with his son — was beaten up so badly he had to retire. He was in the hospital for about two years."

The escape involved five inmates.

In another breakout the prisoner drowned while trying to swim across the nearby canal.

More than one prisoner left his mark inside the jail. Tommy Foster, who had been a Fort Erie resident for over 15 years in the 1960s and 1970s, was a talented landscape painter who had painted three murals inside the prison.

Two of these murals have deteriorated beyond repair while the third remains intact and may still be preserved after construction takes place.

Foster was a vagrant who stirred up trouble to get thrown in jail when he needed three meals a day and a place to rest.

Another prisoner, a woman named Wanda, left a lengthy poem pencilled on her cell wall. More than 20 years old, the poem is still legible and remains as an expression of her love for the husband she had been accused of murdering.

Another cell still holds the faint bloodstains of one prisoner who took his own life.

The jail section of the courthouse was closed in 1973 when the new Niagara Regional Detention Centre was opened in Thorold. The exercise yard has since grown over with weeds and there has been no more clanging of the heavy iron jail cell doors.

The only activity inside the jailhouse these days is that of a pigeon that may occassionally find its way inside.

In early 1998, however, construction crews will be tearing down walls and making way for a new phase of the old jail.

Last hanging in 1958

The last person to be hanged at the Welland courthouse was Thomas Arthur LaPlante, a 22-year-old Hamiltonian, at five minutes after midnight on Friday, Jan. 17, 1958. He was hanged for the hammer-and-knife slaying of Edwin Matthew Jones, a 30-year-old Jehovah's Witness.

Dave Thomas, regional hearings officer at the Welland courthouse, says, "LaPlante had crazy-looking eyes, like Charles Manson's."

"Now this is a story told to me by two jail guards at different times," Thomas recounts. "They were both in the procession when LaPlante was taken from the 'Death Cell' down to be hanged."

"The jail guard said . . . when LaPlante turned here, he looked up and he said to the jail guard, and he stared at him, 'I hope you remember the look in my eyes. After I'm in my grave, I hope that stays with you forever.' And the fellow said he was chilled for about six months."

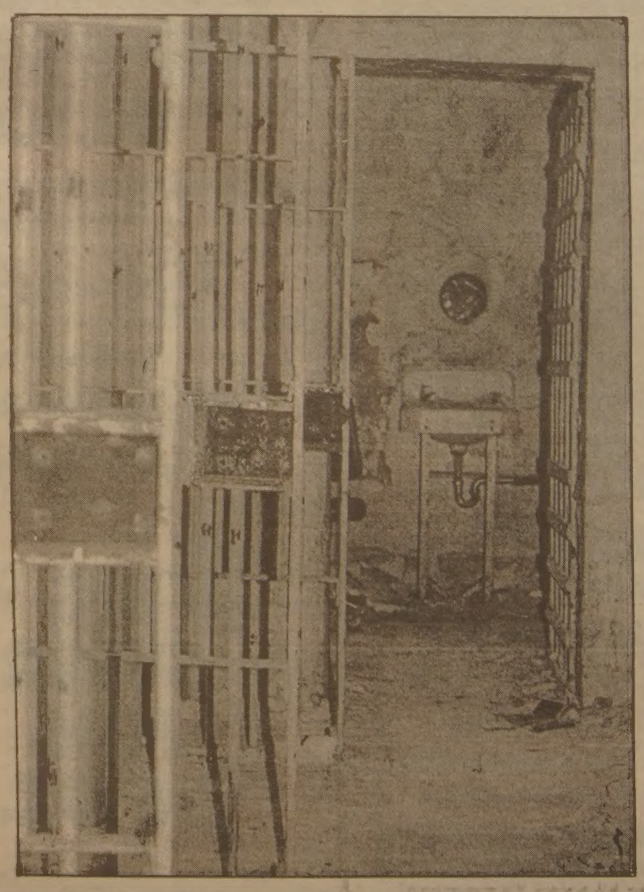
Swearing the entire time, handcuffed and in shackles, he was apparently "real cavalier about the whole thing," Thomas says.

From the "Death Cell" on the third floor he was brought down to the second floor, through the superintendent's office and hanged in a plain and ordinary-looking room.

An article on Page 9 of the St. Catharines Standard the same day reported that LaPlante's last wish was granted a few minutes after his execution. Within an hour after his death, "his eyes were removed, as he had willed, for the use of a blind person," the article reads.

The operation was performed in the prison's laundry room where, the article states, "the eyes were placed within a canister of dry ice and a waiting police cruiser rushed them to a hospital in an undisclosed Ontario centre. They were to be used in a corneal transplant sometime today."

The last executions in Canada were the double hangings of two murderers in Toronto's Don Jail at two minutes after midnight on Dec. 11, 1962.



Poem pencilled on the wall of a cell in the women's block.

To my darling husband whoes (sic)
murder I've been accused of,

Did you know that God above
Created you for me to love?
He picked you out from all the rest
Because he knew I'd love you best

I had a heart and it was true
But now it's gone from me to you
Take care of it, Darling, as I have done
For you have two and I have none
If I go to heaven and you're not there
I'll paint your name on every star
For all the angels to know and see
Just what my darling means to me

I'll give them back their angel wings
Their golden harps and other things
And just to show you what I'd do
I'd even go through hell for you.

Love always, Wanda

All photos and stories by Paul Jacksties

Timelines: Russian Revolution marks first step

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

• On this day in 1908, English physicist Ernest Rutherford announced that he had isolated a single atom of matter. Rutherford's studies became the groundwork for the development of nuclear physics.

• On this day in 1913, English naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace died. He is credited with discovering the process of natural selection independent of Charles Darwin. The term "survival of the fittest" was coined by Wallace, not Darwin.

• On this day in 1916, Jeannette Rankin became the first woman elected to the United States Congress. Remarkably, the Montana Republican beat her opponent by about 25,000 votes on the same day that voters in South Dakota and West Virginia voted down women's sufferage.

• On this day in 1917, Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky led 30,000 Bolsheviks in the taking of the Winter Palace in Petrograd and the subsequent overthrow of the Russian government. Said Lenin of the Russian Revolution, "This is only a preliminary step toward similar revolution everywhere."

• On this day in 1928, Herbert Hoover defeated New York governor Alfred E. Smith to become the 31st president of the United States. It is believed that Smith, who was known as "The Happy Warrior," lost the election largely because he was Roman Catholic and because of his stand against Prohibition at a time when many Americans saw alcohol as the root of all evil.

• On this day in 1933, Fiorello LaGuardia was elected mayor of New York City after prompting the largest voter turnout in the city's history. Many consider LaGuardia the greatest mayor New York has ever had.

• On this day in 1944, Franklin Delano Roosevelt defeated Thomas E. Dewey to become president of the United States for an unprecedented fourth time. Harry S. Truman was elected vice-president.

• On this day in 1945, the British Glouster Meteor broke the world jet plane speed record after being clocked flying at 606 mph (976 km-h).

• On this day in 1962, Richard Nixon lost in his bid to become governor of California and then gave one of the most famous speeches in American political history. He ended it with, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore."

• On this day in 1965, Art Arfons broke the world land speed record in a specially-designed jet car. His record-breaking run was clocked at 576.553 mph (928.250 km-h) before his car careened wildly out of control. Arfons was unhurt in what was his fourth career record-breaking drive.

• On this day in 1980, actor Steve McQueen died of cancer at the age of 50. McQueen starred in many classic Hollywood movies, including The Great Escape and Bullitt. The list of actors he worked with includes James Garner, Sir Richard Attenborough, Charles Bronson, Donald Pleasence, James Coburn, Jacqueline Bisset, Robert Vaughn and Robert Duvall.

Program gets new home

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

The automotive programs will soon be motoring down the highway to their new home at the Welland campus.

A 26,000-square-foot building, named the Agile Training Facility, will soon be built to house the Autobody and Collision Damage Repairer program and the Motor Vehicle Mechanic program.

Although it is still in the design phase, it is expected that the building will cost about $2 million.

It will include an 18,000-square-foot bay/shop area and an additional 8,000 square feet for offices and general rooms.

"The building will be agile in that it will be able to house other programs in the future," said Warren Yule, Master Plan project manager.

The autobody program is at the Wellandvale campus. The mechanic program is at a leased property on Bunting Road in St. Catharines.

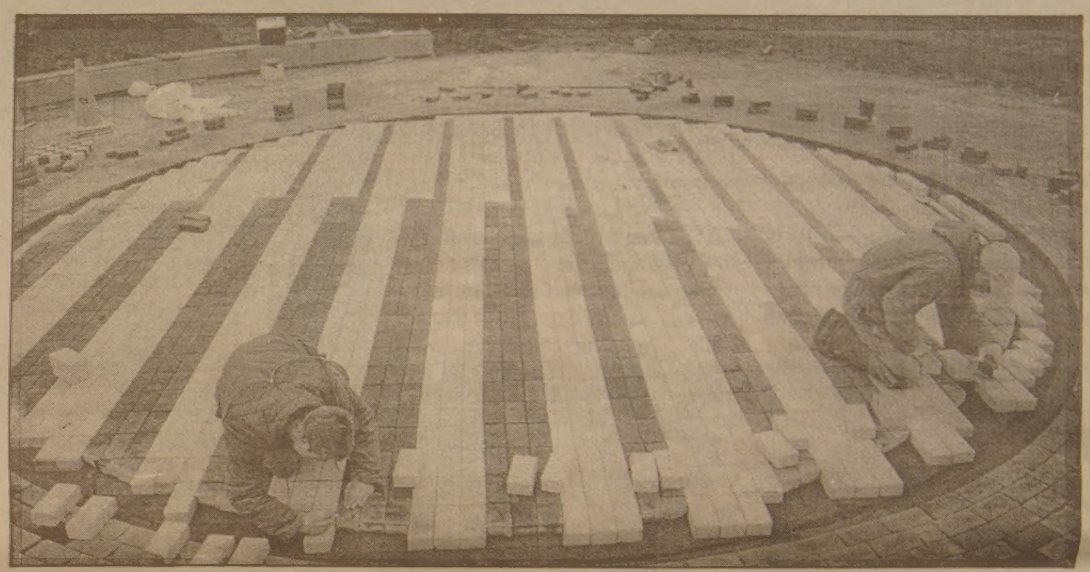
Yule said the college realized that with the Wellandvale campus eventually to be sold, arrangements would have to be made.

"Other locations were considered, including existing facilities and the new Glendale campus (in Niagara-on-the-Lake)," said Yule. "In the search for an existing location, we couldn't find something that was both appropriate and cost-effective."

"We didn't chose the Glendale campus because of limited space for future development."

Construction will begin next spring. The building is expected to open in September 1998.

Building our future, one brick at a time



Stevensville Lawn Service employees Jim Dionne, left, and Jim George put the finishing touches on a brick version of the Niagara College emblem in the new courtyard on Wednesday. The Welland Campus courtyard is expected to be finished over the next two weeks.

Photo by Dan Dakin

'I'm here to fight'

Casey Helie, a Grade 2 student from St. Catharines, supported teachers at Montebello Park. See story page 28.

Photo by Brenda Beaven

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Principals keen on learning business

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Small businesses equal a large interest.

A group of 18 Indonesian principals visiting Niagara College for 12 weeks, recently attended a Small Business Financing convention at the Ramada Inn and Convention Centre in St. Catharines.

The event was designed to give potential entrepreneurs and business people with expansion ideas tips on how to do it.

Jennifer Bissailion, a representative for the Aboriginal Businesses of Canada, said delegates answered questions for people who stopped at the various information booths.

Each booth had information pamphlets and a representative on hand to inform people about their involvement in helping small businesses start up.

Bissailion said the convention began last year shortly after the elections. This was the first show for the fall season.

The principals were free to go on their own and pick up information that caught their attention.

Neneng Dasmawati, a principal, said she was "very keen" on learning about the child care centres and how the curriculum works. There are no centres for child care in Indonesia.

"I would like to learn about the curriculum," said Dasmawati. "That is the difference between you and us. We get started in a vocational high school after Grade 10; you get started in a vocational school in Grade 12. It is too young for a student to choose. Teachers are so kind here in Canada. They get close to the students, get down to their level."

Dasmawati said the style of teaching in Indonesia is somewhat strict and it is hard for teachers to relate to their students.

The principals walked from booth to booth, picked up information and asked questions. Each was interested in a different aspect of a small business.

Advertising and marketing were some aspects investigated by the principals.

The focus of the trip was to give the principals the concepts of how entrepreneurs start small businesses and where they turn for assistance.

Carving up Halloween

English as a Second Language students enjoyed the Halloween party on Oct. 31 at Niagara College's After Hours pub. From left, Shin Kweon Ahn, 25, wears a "ballman" costume, Yu Jung Choi, 22, wears a pumpkin costume, and Jeong-Sun Choi, 21, wears a feline costume. They won first prize for the pumpkin they carved. All three are from Korea.

Photo by Minako Yamaguchi

He's the man

Gary Erb, of St. Catharines, a Journalism-Print program instructor, mugs for the camera on Oct. 31. That's a cigar in his mouth, but it wasn't lit.

Photo by Kathleen McArthur

I got you, Babe . . .

Kathryn Davis, a co-operative education consultant in Niagara College's Employment Services office, flashes a sunny smile in her Cher costume as part of the staff's Halloween dress-up day on Oct. 31.

Photo by Kevin Harding

Christmas holiday treats to tempt shoppers

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season begins Nov. 9 as Christ Church of Zimmerman Road in Niagara Falls holds its annual Christmas bazaar.

Holiday shoppers are welcome to purchase baked goods, quilts, antique jewelry, books, Christmas decorations and other goodies as the church opens its doors to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow.

For those who bring their appetites, a luncheon will start at 11 a.m. downstairs in the Chrysler Room. Chili, sandwiches, tea, coffee and Christ Church's infamous almond delight dessert will be served.

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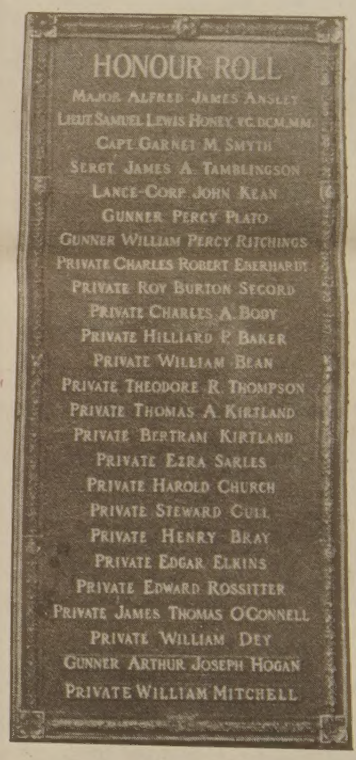
A TIME FOR HEROES . . .

Photo by Dan Dakin

11/11 at 11:00



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—Niagara College President
Dan Patterson

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LEST WE FORGET

Monument honoring country's finest

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

With Remembrance Day just a few days away, the Welland branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is a busy place.

Take a look at nearly any legion member and a bright red poppy can be seen being worn. As in past years, a campaign is taking place to sell the symbolic flowers.

Because of the teachers' protest, the poppies won't be brought to the area schools this year.

The protest will also dampen a cenotaph dedication and Remembrance Day memorial service next week. For the first time this year, the legion was planning on busing in students from local elementary schools.

A cenotaph was installed this week to recognize those who lost their lives in the various wars. "We used to go to Chippawa Park," said Third Vice-President Sue Searle of Welland. "We thought it would be better to just have one here."

Dave Randall of Kirkpatrick & O'Brine Monuments in Welland moves the new Royal Canadian Legion Cenotaph into place Tuesday. It will be dedicated on Remembrance Day during a ceremony at the Legion Branch 4 on Morningstar Avenue.

Photo by Dan Dakin

Lest we forget

Throughout the year there is always something going on at the legion.

As part of the Youth in Education program, the legion offers public speaking and poster designing contests. It also raises and donates money to charity every year through bingo and other fund-raising events.

Every week, the veterans visit the Welland County General Hospital. A few times a year, a group of seniors from Sunset Haven is brought to the legion for a social event.

Membership in the legion used to be open only to those who served in the military or in the RCMP. In recent years, membership has been expanded to family members of veterans.

"The only people who you can't join under are aunts and uncles," explains Searle. She was able to join because of her husband, who served in the military for 35 years. "I love being a member."

There are honorary memberships as well for people who "accept and support the purposes and objects of the legion and who assisted in the advancement of these purposes and objects in the past by giving time and work," says the Royal Canadian Legion Bylaw book.

The government has taken care of the veterans through pensions and benefits.

"I give credit to the government," said a 72-year-old man who volunteered to join the army after high school. "They have really taken care of us."

Legion promotes poppies

By KEVIN MCKEE
Staff Writer

Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it.

On Nov. 11, the world should stop and remember all those who gave their lives defending their countries.

Doris Smelle, poppy chair for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 24, on Church Street in St. Catharines, said people are forgetting about those who "fought for our country."

It shows when poppy sales are down.

Robert Nelson, of Branch 24, said people who remember the wars' dead and injured are slowly "fading away."

Smelle said with the teachers' strike, sales will "definitely be down in the schools."

> ***'Most people remember by themselves.'***
> ***— Robert Nelson***

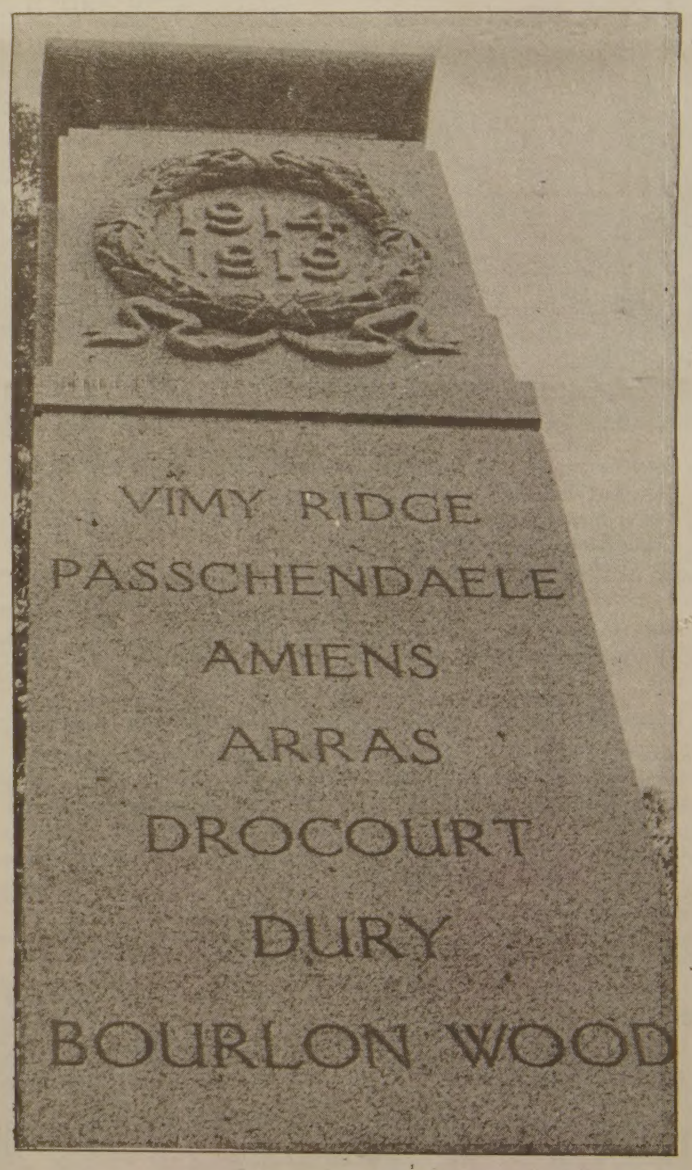
People are too caught up in routine to remember. They have to worry about bills and other things, said Nelson.

"Most people remember by themselves," he said.

We can remember the people who gave their lives to save our country in many ways. Buy a poppy. If you own a business or know someone who does and would like to help on Remembrance Day, call or suggest that person call the local Royal Canadian Legion branch.

If you can't do any of these things, please take the time for a minute of silent salute at 11 a.m. It's only a minute of your time to thank someone who gave their life.

Remembering



A memorial monument to those who died in the First World War, stands as a silent sentinel at Victoria Lawn Cemetery on Queenston Street in St. Catharines.

Photo by Kevin McKee

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved,
and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye brek faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

Word on Campus

What does Remembrance Day mean to you?

By CRYSTAL OLDER
Staff Writer

Dawn Pijl, 21, of Niagara Falls, a first-year Correctional Worker program student, said, "It reminds me of those who fought for our country. They deserve our respect."

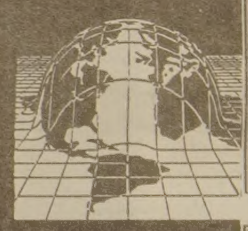
Chad Cunningham, 19, of St. Catharines, a first-year Human Relations program student, said, "Remembrance Day means a lot to me because our soldiers fought for us. If it weren't for them we wouldn't be the country that we are today."

Mark Ventresca, 23, of Welland, a first-year Welding program student, said, "Remembrance Day reminds me of the past. The people who fought for our country. We shouldn't forget!"

Tom Zonneveld, 20, of Welland, a first-year Call Centre Management program student, said, "Remembrance Day reminds me of those who fought for our freedom."

Greg Levenne, 22, of Thorold, a first-year Business Administration program student, said, "I remember my great-grandfather and grandfather who both fought in wars and died."

International Education



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Niagara drops two

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's rugby team played its second tournament of the season in Barrie on Oct. 25.

Schools represented at the tournament included two teams from Sir Sandford Fleming (from the college's Peterborough and Lindsay campuses), Georgian College from Barrie and Niagara College.

Niagara played its first game against the Sir Sandford Fleming's Lindsay campus. They defeated the Knights 27-0.

"It seemed like it took us a whole game to get going," said Niagara Knight Wes McLachlin, 19, of Fonthill.

Niagara's second game was played against the Georgian College Grizzlies. The Grizzlies also defeated Niagara 26-9.

Morgan Gerbrandt, 26, of Niagara Falls, said the game against Georgian "was so dirty, it was unbelievable." He is a second-year Health Science Preparatory program student.

McLachlin, a second-year Computer Engineering Technology program student said, "The last game was the best game that we've ever played."

"We got some of the new guys playing like they've been playing a couple of years because of the veterans," said Steve McIntyre, 21, of Welland, a second-year Law and Security Administration program (LASA) student.

Flindall receives all-star honors at ECC tourney

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

A Niagara team has had a losing experience across the border.

The women's basketball team travelled to the U.S. for the first time this season to play a tournament at Erie Community College in Buffalo, N.Y.

The four-team tournament was held on Nov. 1 and 2. The Knights lost their first game 57-46 against Mercyhurst College.

"We didn't do badly," said co-coach Tara Petrachenko, 26, of Welland. "We played neck and neck with them all game. Then they came ahead by four baskets and our girls got into foul trouble and that was the game."

The loss sent Niagara to the consolation final because only four teams competed in the tournament.

Niagara battled D'Youville College, but faltered late in the game losing 50-60.

Coach Petrachenko said she was surprised at the team's play, especially against certain plays. "The girls broke D'Youville's press every time they used it and we haven't practiced a press break yet."

"It was great playing in the United States because the level of ball is much different than in Canada," said Trinity Smith, 19, a second-year Law and Security Administration program student.

"It's a great experience to play in the United States, especially because it's very different from our league," said Petrachenko. "It's a different type of ball because there are a few different rules the girls have to get used to."

At the conclusion of the tournament, Kristin Flindall, 18, a rookie forward-centre from Niagara, was selected to the tournament all-star team. She received a trophy for the honor. She is a first-year Early Childhood Education program student.

The team's first season game is Nov. 18 against Seneca College at North York.

Reaching for the boards

Niagara Knights basketball players practice in the gym last week. The team starts its season on Nov. 14 at home against the Sault College Cougars. Admission to the games is $2 for adults, $1 for students with identification and free for children under 12.

Photo by Dan Dakin

Stepping down 'hardest thing I've ever done,' Conlon says

Basketball coach for four years tenders resignation

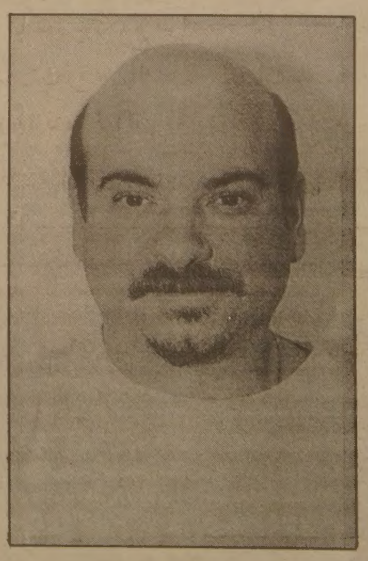
By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights' main man is stepping down.

In his fourth year of coaching the Niagara Knights men's basketball team, head coach Randy Conlon has resigned.

"He had to get his life priorities in place," said Ray Sarkis, assistant athletic director. "It was with regret I had to accept his resignation."

"It was the hardest thing I've ever done," said Conlon, "but it was something I had to do."



JEFF MacDONALD

Although they have not begun the regular season, the Knights have had a successful exhibition season.

Last year, Conlon led the team to the playoffs and many felt he would take them even further this year.

"The expectations were high this year," said Sarkis.

At the beginning of the exhibition season, Conlon said, "This is the best talent we've ever had. Our goal is to win the national championship."

Conlon has been working at the college for seven years and will keep his position as liaison officer in the registrar's office. In addition to coaching basketball, he was the touch football team's head coach and has not yet decided whether to continue in that position.

Hired as head coach of the basketball team is 37-year-old Monsignor Clancy High School teacher Jeff MacDonald.

"It's a good opportunity for me," said MacDonald. "(Randy) left the team in great shape. I've been dealt a good hand here."

The new coach said he stresses conditioning and teamplay.

"I'm probably extremely demanding, but I get the most (out) of my team."

MacDonald has a long history in basketball. His coaching and training experience go back to 1982 when he was the conditioning coach and trainer for the highly ranked Brock Badgers at Brock University in St. Catharines.

In 1987 he took the Ontario provincial team to the Canada Junior Games and won gold. Two years later, MacDonald started a new team at Monsignor Clancy in Thorold. Over the next seven years, he coached the team to 200 wins and an Ontario Federation Secondary Athletics Association championship.

His coaching and training talent went international in 1991. Not only did he go to the World University Games in England where Canada won silver, but he also went to the Pan-American Games.

For the past three years, Macdonald has attended the University of Notre Dame's basketball camp in South Bend, Ind.

"I think there are certain things that I bring to a program," said MacDonald. "How well we do will depend on dedication and how well we play together."

SPORTS

Niagara College women's basketball team includes back row: Coach Tara Petrachenko, Andrea Flindall, Ingrid Wells and Katrina Boutlier. Front row: Caryn Thompson, Trinity Smith and Tara Morra. Missing are Kristin Davies, Kristin Flindall, Jackie Collins, Gaylaine Legault, team manager Jessica Aloian and therapist Jeff MacDonald.

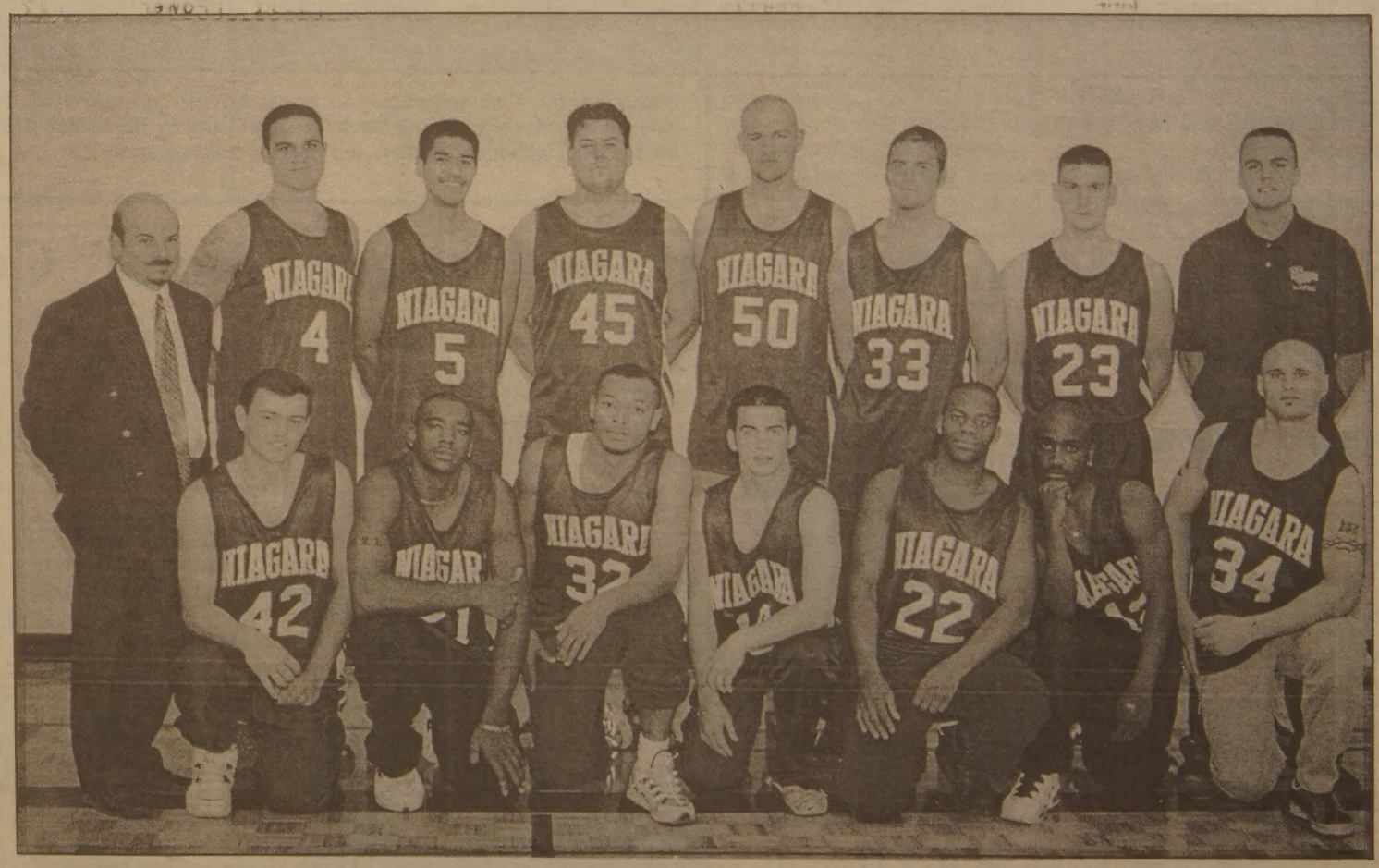
Photo by Mark Riehl

NIAGARA KNIGHTS 1997/98 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VARSITY TEAM ROSTER

UNIF #	PLAYER	POSITION	HT	HIGH SCHOOL
3	Boutlier, Katrina	Forward	5'9"	E.N.S.S. Brighton
4	Flindall, Andrea	Guard	5'10"	Lakeport, St. Cath.
5	Morra, Tara	Guard	5'6"	Merritton, St.Cath.
20	Davies, Kristin	Guard	5'7"	St. Paul, Niagara Falls
22	Smith, Trinity	Guard	5'4"	SirWinston Churchill, Hamilton
32	Flindall, Kristin	Forward	6'0"	Lakeport, St. Cath.
33	Collins, Jackie	Forward	5'8"	Kernahan, St. Cath.
34	Legault, Gaylaine	Forward	5'8"	Geraldton Composite
42	Wells, Ingrid	Guard	5'8"	Rothwell-osnabrusk, Cornwall
44	Thompson, Caryn	Forward	5'8"	Lakeport, St. Cath.

NIAGARA KNIGHTS 1997/98 MEN'S BASKETBALL VARSITY TEAM ROSTER

UNIF #	PLAYER	POSITION	HT	HIGH SCHOOL/ HOMETOWN
4	Mosley, Peter	Forward	6'4	E.L.Crossley, Fonthill
5	Harris, Mike	Guard	6'4	Westlane, Niagara Falls
10	Ranalli, Kenny	Guard	5'10	Cathedral, Hamilton
12	Perryman, Craig	Guard	5'5	North Park, Brampton
20	Aubin, Darren	Guard	6'	Governor Simcoe, St.Catharines
21	O'Conner, Marcus	Forward	6'2	Streetsville, Mississauga
22	Ivey, Allen	Guard	5'10	Collegiate, St.Catharines
23	Dever, Steve	Guard	6'3	Stamford, Niagara Falls
25	George, Wayne	Forward	6'4	Morningstar, Rexdale
32	George, Mike	Guard	6'1	Morningstar, Rexdale
33	Heyes, Anthony	Forward	6'4	Collegiate, St.Catharines
34	Conradi, Mike	Forward	6'	West Park, St.Catharines
42	Medhurst, Andy	Guard	5'11	Port High, Port Colborne
45	Boyle, Steve	Forward	6'8	St.Patricks, Sarnia
50	Smith, Jason	Forward	6'9	Hagersville, Jarvis



The Knights men's basketball team includes back row: head coach Jeff MacDonald, Peter Mosley, Mike Harris, Steve Boyle, Jason Smith, Anthony Heyes, Steve Dever and assistant coach Derek Flindall. Front row: Andy Medhurst, Marcus O'Conner, Mike George, Kenny Ranalli, Allen Ivey, Craig Perryman and Mike Conradi. Missing from photo are Darren Aubin and Wayne George.

Photo by Dan Dakin

SPORTS

Niagara College men's volleyball team includes back row: Corey Mckeown, Paul Clark, Shawn Riemer, Kerby Bentley, Jesse Knight, Stacey Kay and Coach Blair Cudmore. Front row: Cuneyt Akgol, Chris Vail, Camron Jacobs, Scott Parsons and Greg Brown. Missing are Bobby Poulson, assistant coach Pat Purbs, therapist Jeff MacDonald and manager Chris Lillie.

Photo by Mark Riehl

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VARSITY TEAM ROSTER

UNIF. #	PLAYER	POSITION	HT	HIGH SCHOOL/ HOMETOWN
2	Collins, Liana	Power	5'4	St.Theresa's, Midlan
3	Barber, Melissa	Offside	5'3	OSCVI, Owen Sound
5	Kok, Sara	Middle	5'8	Westlane, Niagara Falls
6	Clifford, Kim	Setter	5'9	Scott Park, Hamilton
7	Difreitas, Rita	Offside	5'7	Ascension, Mississauga
8	Smith, Trinity	Power	5'4	Sir Winston Churchil, Hamilton
9	Chatterton, Laura	Power	5'6	Grantham, St.Catharines
11	Hollinshead, Kerri	Middle	5'11	Denis Morris, Fonthill
12	Chavez, Izayana B	Middle	5'8	Centennial, Welland
13	Young, Dbra	Power	5'6	Port Colborne High, Port Colborne
14	Carpenter, Jenn	Offside	5'8	Centennial, Welland

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL VARSITY TEAM ROSTER

UNIF #	PLAYER	POSTION	HT	HIGH SCHOOL/ HOMETOWN
1	Jacobs, Camron	Setter	6'2	Mayfield, Brampton
3	Kay, Stacey	Weakside	6'3	Chatham Kent,Chatham
4	Poulson, Bobby	Power	6'1	Brookfield, Ottawa
5	Knight, Jesse	Power	6'4	Barton, Hamilton
6	Vail, Chris	Power/Weak	6'0	Stratford Central,Stratford
7	Brown, Greg	Power/Weak	5'11	Westlane, Niagara Falls
9	Akgol, Cuneyt	Setter	6'0	Forest Heights, Kitchener
10	Mckeown, Corey	Weakside	6'6	Mt.Carmel, Mississauga
11	Bentley, Kerby	Middle	6'8	Mayfield, Caledon East
12	Riemer, Shawn	Middle	6'7	Valley Heights, Port Rowan
13	Clark, Paul	Middle	6'5	Westlane, Niagara Falls
14	Parsons, Scott	Power	6'2	Eastwood, Kitchener

The Knights women's volleyball team includes back row: head coach Carolyn Schatz, Laura Chatterton, Jenn Carpenter, Sara Kok, Kerri Hollinshead, Kim Clifford and assistant coach Jesse Knight. Front row: Rita Difreitas, Trinity Smith, Izayana B Chavez, Melissa Barber, Dbra Young and Liana Collins.

Photo by Dan Dakin

SPORTS

Every Niagara News issue, the sports department will pick winners for two Sunday football games as well as for the Monday Night game. The writers' season right/wrong record will also be published.	*The Niagara News' football follies*				
	GAME ONE Kansas City at Jacksonville	**GAME TWO** New England at Buffalo	**MONDAY NIGHT** San Francisco at Philadelphia	**SEASON RECORD** Right	Wrong
Andrew Jeffrey	Kansas City	New England	Philadelphia	4	2
Mark Riehl	Jacksonville	Buffalo	Philadelphia	2	4
Kerri Wood	Jacksonville	New England	Philadelphia	5	1
Andrea Flindall	Jacksonville	New England	Philadelphia	4	2
Dan Dakin	Jacksonville	Buffalo	San Francisco	0	6
Ian Anderson	Jacksonville	New England	Philadelphia	4	2

Raptors hopeful for 1997 season

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

The National Basketball Association has fired up a new season. The teams have turned on the heat in hopes of burning the Chicago Bulls throughout the year and making sure their chances of returning as champions are cooked.

The Toronto Raptors are hungry for another successful season and are starving to make the playoffs for the first time, craving that feast of basketball's best teams — a championship.

This will be the team's third season in the league. Over their first two seasons, the Raptors have tied the modern-era expansion record for the most combined wins. They unexpectedly won 21 games two seasons ago and impressively won 30 games last season.

Under coach Darrel Walker, the team's third season should be their ticket into the playoffs for the first time. The ride to the playoffs is a little more certain with re-signings of three key players in the off-season.

The notable signings were shooting-guard Doug Christie, small-forward Walt Williams and the 6-foot-11 Carlos Rogers. All now have lucrative long-term contracts.

John Wallace, picked up in the off-season from the New York Knicks, is an excellent acquisition who can come off the bench and put up starting-players numbers as he did in the pre-season.

The 18-year-old Tracy McGrady was the team's highest pick in this year's draft and will see playing time strictly off the bench. The kid has talent and looked good in the pre-season, but being 18 he shouldn't be rushed into action.

The major key to the team's success is the play of the Raptors' first-ever draft pick Damon Stoudamire at guard and last year's first-round pick Marcus Camby at forward.

Stoudamire is starting his third season in the league and has proven he is Toronto's franchise player. He now needs to make sure he leads the team on and off the bench.

Camby has a lot of talent, but injuries plagued his rookie season, causing him to miss 19 games last season. The 6-foot-11 Camby had an amazing March last season putting up superstar numbers with 21.1 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.5 blocks a game. If he's healthy he could put up these kind of numbers this season.

The Raptors' goal should be no higher than just making the eighth and final playoff spot. When you play in the same conference as the Bulls and are a third-year team, just battling for that final playoff position will make for a successful season.

Lakers will dethrone Bulls in NBA

By A.J. JEFFREY
Staff Writer

The biggest question going into the new National Basketball Association (NBA) season is, can anyone dethrone the mighty Chicago Bulls?

Many teams have improved and are strong enough to contend for the title. Here's a look at some of the contenders.

East Conference

Chicago Bulls: The Michael Jordan-led Bulls will miss injured all-star Scottie Pippen for the first month or so of the season. The Bulls have plenty of depth and head coach Phil Jackson will use his bench effectively to keep his starters healthy. The Bulls will dominate the East, but don't expect another 70-win season.

My prediction: Chicago will be dethroned in the finals.

New York Knicks: Time is running out for the aging Knicks. If they're going to win, they'd better win soon. Patrick Ewing and Larry Johnson will lead the Knicks and John Starks is always a threat. Charles Oakley will add leadership, but the clock is ticking.

My prediction: The Knicks will be quarter-final losers.

Miami Heat: Any team coached by Pat Riley will be competitive. Add all-stars Tim Hardaway and Alonzo Mourning and there could be a heat-wave felt around the NBA.

My prediction: They'll lose to the Bulls in the semi-finals.

Toronto Raptors: For the Raptors to succeed they need a proven centre to help Damon Stoudamire. However, the Raptors have a good core of young talent. If Marcus Camby can stay healthy, the Raptors will contend for the final playoff spot in the East.

My prediction: The Raptors will make the playoffs, but they'll get buried by the Bulls in the first round.

West Conference

Los Angeles Lakers: The Shaq-led Lakers will be the team to beat in the West. Along with Shaquille O'Neal, Eddie Jones and Nick Van Exel will provide most of the scoring on this young and eager team. This very tough group has depth and a good head coach in Del Harris.

My prediction: NBA champions.

Utah Jazz: Last year's finalists will miss injured guard John Stockton, but Karl Malone and the rest of the Jazz will be very tough to beat, especially on the home court.

My prediction: The Jazz will fall in the semi-finals.

San Antonio Spurs: After a horrible season last year, the Spurs have a healthy David Robinson and Sean Elliot. Throw super-rookie Tim Duncan into the mix and the Spurs are contenders and may give the Lakers and Jazz a good fight.

My prediction: They will be second-round losers.

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14 tips on how to navigate the Internet

mhradsky@vaxxine.com

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

Surfs up! Here we go!

If you're not on the Net, you're moving too slowly.

Here are some useful sites for your computer.

First, go to www.tucows.com. This site is THE site for all your computer software needs. Anything that is shareware or freeware is on this site. Everything from HTML browsers to printer clients can be found here. There is so much on this site that it would take a paper just to go over it all.

Every page loads quickly, probably because there are not many graphics, and the whole site is laid out well. It even has different sites throughout the world, including three in Ontario.

Almost anything you could be looking for on the Net for your computer is on this site. And then there is their logo — the two cows . . . ahh . . . how cute.

On a scale of 1 to 10, this site would get a nine and a half.

Next, try http://cnet.com/Content/Features/Howto/Hacks/index.html.

This page is for those Windows 95 hacker wannabes. It has 15 tips on how to "hack" Windows 95 to make it run better.

There is a link to a file called RegClean that might be one of the most useful programs Microsoft has put out for Windows 95. The program actually cleans your registry of all orphaned registry entries. The registry contains all kinds of setup information for all the programs you have installed.

There are 14 other very useful tips on this page.

Now go and check out http://www.emssys.com/articles.htm.

This page contains a list of articles EMS systems has put together to teach you about Windows 95 and other programs. They have tips on how to show the "Easter eggs" in programs. Easter Eggs are hidden features of a program that are activated in a secret way to reveal credits for the programmers or other information.

Finally, Dylan Greene's Windows 95 Starting Page gives you excellent information about Windows 95. Web surfers have sent in many of the tips and tricks you'll find here. It was last modified on March 4, 1996, so some of the tips are somewhat old.

I advise you to use caution and back up your registry before playing with it. Despite the warning, these tricks can really speed up your computing.

If you would like me to review specific kinds of pages on the Web, just hook up and leave me some e-mail at mhradsky@vaxxine.com.

Learning to go online

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Continuing Education department has created a "virtual college."

The growth of online courses has opened a new area of learning here.

Distance learning has been at Niagara for many years, but has just taken off recently. Distance learning is conducted by students accessing lesson plans, information and instructional units via the Internet. Assignments and evaluations are submitted and returned the same way.

Students may complete their term of study without physically coming to any college campuses or meeting their professors or fellow students personally.

The traditional method of distance learning has been video conferencing, involving a teacher mailing a student a video cassette or audio cassette of lectures and work to be done.

Video conferencing made "no money" for the college, said Foster Zanutto, director of Continuing Education and one of the originators of the distance learning project.

The current method, online learning, enables a student to stay at home and work anytime, day or night. Students are also able to communicate via the computer with each other. Distance learning is ideal for shift-workers, the physically disabled and home-workers.

The student must have a 386X speed, or better, computer and access to the Internet. The student will be sent necessary books and a way to contact the teacher via the Internet.

Niagara College has entered into a consortium with 12 other colleges in Ontario, called Contact South.

"This consortium," said Zanutto, "is charged with creating and delivering online courses to the general public. Certain colleges will do certain courses." This ensures none of the colleges will duplicate courses.

There are about 100 courses offered through the 12 colleges.

Zanutto said he anticipates offering 300 courses by next fall.

"We expect to eventually have all 25 colleges (in Ontario) as part of the Contact South consortium," he said.

Last year's enrolment was 400 registrations for all three of the terms. This year, there are 500 people enrolled in the first semester.

The tuition costs for the courses are more than regular Continuing Education courses, but Zanutto said so far students have been willing to pay more for "the convenience factor involved."

www.ten.net for addicts

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

Sometimes you have to pay to play.

The Total Entertainment Network (TEN) is the hottest gaming service on the Internet today.

The concept behind the site is that gaming addicts from around the world can play against each other. TEN is compatible with more than 20 games including Command & Conquer, Mech Warrior 2, Warcraft 2 and Duke Nukem 3D.

Nukem is the site's hottest game. On Sunday mornings, TEN averages between 200 and 300 people playing the game at a time.

This kind of excitement doesn't come without its problems.

The biggest setback is the price. Without a major credit card, TEN is out of the question. Each player must pay a monthly membership fee which started at $8 and is continually increasing. There is also a $3 hourly fee.

Performance is another problem. The games often crash if there are a lot of players online. Even when they don't crash, the added players cause a serious turtle-effect.

If you are a dedicated player, the site is worth the money. Unfortunately, many people lose out because they pay the price and then the fad wears off.

The site is accessible at www.ten.net. It's recommended you try the site with at least a 28.8 modem.

Surfing the Net

Students are busy taking advantage of the college's open access computer lab at the Welland Campus. Mid-semester assignments bring students in at all hours of the day.

Photo by Sharon Whaling

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ENTERTAINMENT

After Hours goes to hell and back

By ALEX HALMAI
and ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

Welcome to the devil's own carnival.

Carnival Diablo, the ultimate sideshow, rolled into Niagara College's After Hours pub on Oct. 20.

The eye-catching posters at the Welland campus had done their job, creating a lineup of anxious alternative entertainment seekers outside After Hours.

The show was billed as "an adventure into the dark realm of kinetic powers and new-age magic, with a sprinkle of good old-fashion human torture."

Sounds great so far, and it was. That is, until the show got started.

The opening music was excellent, incorporating slow, eerie bass notes mixed with psychotic circus-like organ and piano playing.

The music seemed to go on forever, gaining in intensity, then quieting down, only to pick up its pace again.

It was a real workout for the heart and did an excellent job of creating a dark, mysterious and anxious mood for the audience.

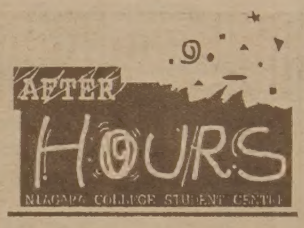
The audience had absolutely no idea of what to expect, and that was perhaps the rush of the evening.

Once the show began, it unraveled into a dud.

Now, we all know magic is not spiritual forces working through a magician, but rather the highly complex art of deception and trickery.

Unfortunately, the only deception and trickery was played on Carnival Diablo if they believe they will ever return to Niagara College to a crowd that size.

The first part of the show involved a mix of kinetic mind-reading and magic, or should we say, "attempted magic." The host and so-called "magician" was so incredibly easy to figure out that catching him making mistakes became the evening's focus.



The second segment of the night involved nothing more than a completely fake electric chair routine that couldn't have fooled even the most intoxicated viewers.

Routines of sticking a shark hook through an obviously pierced tongue and sticking a large pin through another obvious piercing through the flesh of the arm, could be viewed daily at your local piercing boutique.

To the trained eye a magician's flaws can always be seen, and in this case it was far too easy. The "magic" might have fooled some children but there are at least a few three-month-old children who would beg to differ.

Overall, a trip to the tattoo parlor would be much stranger and interesting. At least the tattoos there would not be stuck on and the pain and cringing would be justified.

Many thanks to the Student Administrative Council for making it a free event, saving possible riots.

The devil himself takes a tasty lick of his own hell fire at the Carnival Diablo at the After Hours on Oct. 20.

Photo by Andrew Hall

Sky reaches new heights

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

Amy Sky is reaching new heights as her singing career is gaining recognition.

Whether we know it or not, we have been hearing the works of Sky, 37, a Canadian singer-songwriter and mother of two, for the past decade. She wrote songs recorded by artists like Roch Voisine, Diana Ross and Amanda Marshall, to name a few.

With her hair newly cut short, wearing flared black pants and a mid-length blazer, Sky performed to a full house at Brock University on Oct. 25. She put on a sensational show featuring songs from her debut album, **Cool Rain.**

Knowing the audience would wonder about her hair, she explained her reasons for the new do.

"Cutting my hair is a new change for a new era as I am working on my upcoming CD," said Sky.

Sky said her fans could expect lots of mushy ballads as well as some more upbeat ballads on her next CD to be released in March 1998.

The audience got a taste of the new CD when she sang *Waterfall* and *Please Myself.*

"Waterfall is appropriate for the Niagara Region and (this) is the first time it has been heard in public," Sky said.

Between her songs she told the audience of her life in the United States, where she has spent much of her professional career.

"While living in L.A. I was able to work with a lot of amazing people like Melissa Manchester," she said.

Sky's latest single *If My Heart Had Wings* was taken from the title of Manchester's last CD.

Returning home to Toronto in 1990, Sky's career has taken even bigger steps.

In 1996 she landed the lead part of Mrs. Johnstone in the Toronto production of Willy Russell's musical *Blood Brothers*, playing opposite David Cassidy.

This past summer Sky toured with Roch Voisine, who is debuting his new CD **Kissing Rain.** Sky harmonizes with Voisine on the song *Deliver Me,* a song to which she gave the title.

Her song *I Will Take Care of You,* which has been capturing listeners of both pop and country music radio stations across Canada, is special to Sky. She said it traces the life of a child from birth to marriage, to her mother taking ill and finally to the young woman having a child of her own.

"I wrote the song after my daughter Zoe was born," said Sky. "I was inspired by her birth."

Sky told the audience the song was a tribute to her mother.

The audience received a special treat as Sky's husband, singer-songwriter Marc Jordan, whose latest CD has reached the million mark in sales, charmed the audience by performing two of his songs and joining Sky for a duet.

Sky said she and her husband seldom write together because "frankly (they) would like to stay married."

Sky offered a few words of wisdom to the youth of Canada.

"Believe in yourself from the inside out. Listen to your voice and don't be afraid of yourself."

Bruce Guthro, winner of this year's East Coast Music Award for The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) Songwriter of the Year, opened the concert with a spectacular performance which amused the audience. He was nominated for two 1996 ECMA's, including Male Artist and Country Artist of the Year.

Appearing by popular demand

Ladies request exotic dancers

By TRACY JAY
Staff Writer

Female audience wanted.

Niagara College's After Hours is hosting a special show, American Fantasy, geared toward women on Nov. 10.

This show combines talent and enthusiasm. Four males at a time appear onstage to act out skits, perform dances, do a bit of comedy and entertain.

American Fantasy tours Canada and the United States.

Jonny Angel, 29, a former Sunshine Boy in the Toronto Sun, says he was the youngest member of the group when he started eight years ago. After a year in the business, he bought the group, and has kept it going strong ever since.

The group has traditionally performed at classier nightclubs and banquets, rarely at colleges and universities.

Although the group hasn't toured many colleges, Angel said he expects this should be a success.

Dave Rapleje, Student Centre manager, decided to bring American Fantasy to the college because of requests from students.

"We've never done anything like this before. It's a first. We've had requests from the ladies at the college, so we wanted to do something specifically for them. It's like a Las Vegas-style revue. Something I thought the ladies would enjoy."

The show works on a tipping structure. The women place money in the G-string of the dancers while they are walking through the audience, and with a tip, women will receive a souvenir picture of the group. For the more courageous, an alternative way of tipping would be "creative tipping."

"The creative tipping works well with the Canadian loonies and toonies. The ladies place their coin for the dancer and he will obtain it in a very creative, clean, entertaining manner," said Angel.

Angel stated everyone in the group is "great" but a key guy to look for is Joey Ray.

(Continued on page 23)

ENTERTAINMENT
-E2-

U2 hypnotizes capacity crowd at SkyDome

By CHER CIRILLO
Staff Writer

Every once in a while a show comes along you remember for a long time.

One of those shows happened Oct. 26.

After a five-year absence from Toronto, the Irish band U2 returned and picked up where they left off.

As fans entered the SkyDome, they were met by a gigantic television screen.

Throughout the evening the screen carried images of the band, as well as thousands of strange and wonderful eye-popping images.

To go along with the screen, a giant yellow arch was set in the middle of the stage, which held huge orange speakers, a 12-foot olive and a 40-foot lemon which once it was peeled, became a gigantic mirrorball that opened bearing the band.

The band even walked out to the stage through the crowd — unusual for any band, but especially U2.

Welcome to POP MART, the name of the tour and the band's tongue-and-cheek explanation for its status today.

All of the old favorites such as *I Will Follow* and *Sunday, Bloody Sunday* were played.

The Joshua Tree selections were also thrown in. Bono was at his best, manipulating the crowd like a hypnotist, from awe-inspiring anthems such as *Pride (In the Name of Love)*, to a gentle acoustic version of *Staring at the Sun* performed on a catwalk which extended into the crowd.

Another highlight was during *With or Without You*, when Bono took a young lady from the audience and slow-danced with her as he sang.

The only complaint to be made is not directed at the band, but at the audience and fans of U2.

It was evident during the show that much of the crowd wasn't familiar with the material from U2's latest CD POP.

This was sad because it's probably the most diverse album in the band's history.

What was an amazing show to all, could have been much better had the audience been familiar with the new music.

Aside from that, this was ultimately the best concert I've attended.

Rock pop band Tariq has new radio single, store sampler

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

It's not the name of the band that counts, it's what's in the band. However, the name is always an asset.

Tariq played to a large crowd at Niagara College's After Hours pub on Oct. 21.

"I came from Calgary to Toronto," said Tariq. "This is our fourth show as a band."

He was speaking about his new band aptly named Tariq. Band members include Tim Timleck, 32, on drums, Scott Dibble, 28, on guitar, and Maury Lefoy, 27, on bass. All are from Toronto. Tariq is the lead singer and backup guitarist.

With a rock/pop style and a new single on the radio, the members of Tariq seem to know what they are doing. Tariq's first CD was an Indy release called **Splat**. This, their second and latest offering, is called **The Basement Songs.**

A little warm-up — Tariq

Tariq's fame seems to be getting around, even more so than just on the radio. EMI has a sampler out that music stores give away for free. Included on the sampler are Tariq, Econoline Crush, Glueleg, Dayna Manning, King Cobb Steelie, Leahy, and Change of Heart. Even if listeners have never heard of Tariq, they are sure to get a taste off the sampler.

Asked why the band prefers to use guitar chords as opposed to power chords, Tariq said, "I'm not very good at power chords."

He said it comes from being "a folk singer."

Tariq only started playing an electric guitar two years ago. Before that he only used an acoustic. "I have played since I was 16. It was a one-man thing."

Tariq will be heading out with the band Great Big Sea for a 16-show tour soon. "This is just a little warm-up," said Tariq.

And how did this band get together? "I met up with Maury," Tariq said. "He got the band together."

And the music they are playing "sounds really good," he said. "I'm really pleased it sounds so good."

Sing along in Toronto

By A.J. JEFFREY
Staff Writer

U2 rocked the lid off SkyDome in front of 53,000 fans on Oct. 26. The concert was part of U2's Pop Mart tour, which will take the band throughout North America and the rest of the world.

Toronto was the first stop on the second half of the tour, and the crowd in the stadium was filled with anticipation and excitement.

The band, featuring lead singer Bono, entered at the far end of SkyDome and walked through the crowd to get to the stage.

The stage itself was filled with bright lights and a huge television screen, which showed live shots of the band performing.

It was a spectacle

It was much more than a concert — it was a spectacle. The crowd sang along with the band through the night.

U2 played songs from its new and old albums, which made the concert all the better. They sounded great and the lights and screen blew the crowd away.

With great music, an incredible visual setup, exhilarating stage presence, and a roaring crowd to support them, the U2 concert was a fantastic show and one that we may not see again in Toronto for a long time.

Popular demand

(Continued from page 22)

Angel stated everyone in the group is "great" but a key guy to look for is Joey Ray.

Ray is a former bodybuilder and specializes in flexibility and aerobics.

"I've been in this business for eight years and I've not seen anything like this," said Angel. "This guy enjoys his work so much he doesn't even sleep. He's like the Tazmanian devil. He never stops. It just amazes me sometimes."

After Hours opens its doors at 8 p.m. For this show the age requirement is 18 years plus with identification. There is no cover charge. There is no nudity.

Angel said he is looking forward to entertaining at After Hours. "We always get good results and excellent feedback. We're all looking forward to coming to Niagara College Nov.10, and expect it will be a great experience for all of us."

Silence is golden

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

Not a single student was laughing during Yuk Yuk's comedy night at Niagara College's After Hours pub on Oct. 29.

Scheduled comedian Terry Lee Davis had to cancel because she recently got a job on ABC television's Drew Carey Show.

The opening act was Billy Calen, a regular at Yuk Yuk's and an announcer on CHUM FM. Calen used more unnecessary profanity than any comedian I have seen perform.

When he wasn't swearing, he was speaking about pornographic films and degrading celebrities for their differences. Calen made fun of Jeff Healey's blindness and Rita McNeil's weight, calling her a "provincial park."

Replacing Davis was headliner Lou Eisen, who has written with Jay Leno for the Tonight Show.

He added to the night's dramatic silence.

Both comedians shared similar jokes about overweight women, the Royal Family and Marv Albert.

He added to the night's dramatic silence

Disappointed that the students were not laughing at his jokes, Eisen claimed the students at the pub were sleeping.

I have yet to find someone who has said they think that making fun of other people is funny.

It is discouraging to think that those whom we as college students should look up to are more immature than we are.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Cracking up at Komedy Kabaret

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

Looking for laughs in all the right places is easy.

For only a few dollars more than the cost of a movie, you can be rolling in the aisles instead of sitting next to one.

The late show at Yuk Yuk's in Niagara Falls on Oct. 25 was a non-stop roller coaster of laughs.

The master of ceremonies for the night was Paul Smith, originally from Niagara Falls.

He made fun of everything from blue toilet water to the World Series, while getting to know a little about the audience.

The first act was Jacko, who described himself as "Steve Urkel after a buffet." He poked fun at Americans and the Maritimes, before announcing "put the Bible down — it's gonna get rude from here."

And did it ever.

The feature performer of the night was David Merry. He declared the audience to be "a demented little bunch" and proceeded to get the crowd going with his hilarious observations on such topics as sex, snow shoveling and Sudbury.

He ended the night with a little bit of magic. Not all found his "bloody" magic easy to stomach. This did not, however, discourage him from continuing. He simply exclaimed, "I'll keep tossing these out (and) you catch the ones you want!"

Overall, the night was comedy at its best.

To avoid being left out in the cold, call 375-LAFF(5233) for reservations at least one hour before show time.

A Life Less Ordinary

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

A kidnapping spoiled by romance, the romance spoiled by a bank robbery and a higher power working in mysterious ways.

A Life Less Ordinary, from the makers of Shallow Grave and Trainspotting, stars Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz as the not-so-typical star-crossed lovers.

Instead of having loving parents watching a relationship blossom, the two are pushed together by the "celestial police" (played by Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo).

The romance begins with a gun, not a bouquet of flowers. Courting is a kidnapping, not a trip to the movies. At one point the pair do have dinner, but instead of starry gazes over a candlelit meal, it is putdowns and accusations over some dead cow.

McGregor plays Robert, who can only be described as a pathetic loser, but in a good way. He's like a puppy trying unsuccessfully to climb a flight of stairs. You feel sorry for him and yet want him to succeed.

Diaz is the lovely and spoiled Celine. Although she is rich and has everything she could ask for, she still isn't satisfied. However, instead of coming across as a smug little brat, you tend to pity her as well, wanting her to escape from her father and the boredom.

A Life Less Ordinary is a witty, quirky comedic romance, not a romantic comedy, because even though it is still boy meets girl, boy falls for girl and boy loses girl, it's snappy not sappy. You will laugh, but never sigh "Ahh!"

Flat Broke covers it all

By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

After seeing Flat Broke perform, you will have little doubt it is the best cover band in the Niagara Region.

Song selection is the single most important factor in the success of a band that plays only covers. Rick LaBrie and Jim DiMartile and brothers Mike and Paul Wainwright have chosen songs that will appeal to a wide range of people.

"It's mostly '70s and '80s retro stuff — some 90s stuff, too," says drummer DiMartile, 30.

The appreciative crowd at the Red Hot Chili Pepper Bar and Grille (RHCP) in St. Catharines reflected the diversity of the set list with people ranging from their late teens to their mid-fifties packing the bar Nov. 1.

RHCP owner Gus Vogiatzis attributed the popularity of the band to the sheer volume of songs the band has learned.

"When someone asks, 'Can you play this?,' in a matter of ten seconds, they're playing it," said Vogiatzis.

Flat Broke covers artists from the last four decades, including the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, David Bowie, Steve Miller, the Police and the Barenaked Ladies. The band doesn't shy away from some songs just because they are difficult. The band's version of *Under Pressure* by Queen is perfect, despite the complexity of the original.

Perhaps the best adjective to describe Flat Broke is "fun." Songs like *867-5309/Jenny* by Tommy Tutone and the show-stopping *Come on, Eileen* by Dexy's Midnight Runners brought cheers of surprise and delight from the crowd. Flat Broke even does a perfect cover of *Dancing Queen* by ABBA, quite a feat for an all-male group.

"When they are playing, the people will stay," said Vogiatzis. "They're a great group of guys and people like them."

Flat Broke often plays Saturday nights at the RHCP, located at 1 St. Paul St. in St. Catharines. For information call 684-9219.

Flat Broke members Rick LaBrie, 31, left, and Mike Wainwright, 24, belt out a tune at the Red Hot Chili Pepper, Nov. 1.
Photo by Kevin Harding

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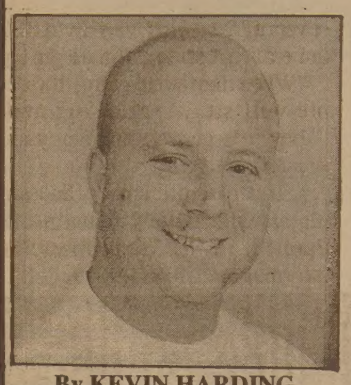
BETWEEN THE PAGES

Wrestling book takes hold of you



By KEVIN HARDING
Staff Writer

It's Only Wrestling is best described as a report on all aspects of the industry.

Written by D.A. Dawson, P.J. Maurin and K.S.G. Phillips, it is appropriately subtitled *Everyone's Guide to Professional Grunt and Groan.*

There is something in it for everyone from the new fan to what the authors refer to as "smart fans" — those who don't buy into it as a real competition, but enjoy it anyway.

Most publications dealing with professional wrestling are written by people paid to promote the business and enhance its elaborate storylines while hiding its inner workings.

The greatest value of this 103-page book from Shooting Star Press is what it has to offer in terms of insider information.

The chapter on the business end of wrestling details standard contracts, employee-employer relationships, benefits packages, promotional procedures and booking practices. There are even graphs showing trends in live show attendance and profit.

The tone of the book is one of utmost respect for the grapplers and promoters, but the authors make no attempt to glorify the business. Included within the work are chapters on steroid abuse, sexism and racism in the wrestling industry.

This is not to say the book isn't a lot of fun.

The authors mention a great many legendary names, including Lewis, Thesz, Sammartino, Von Erich and Hart and give information about their histories, families and accomplishments.

Specific incidents of interest are also covered. The authors describe the ongoing feud between former "Taxi" star Andy Kaufmann and wrestler Jerry "The King" Lawler that resulted in several shouting matches on a pair of Late Night With David Letterman television shows in 1982.

It's Only Wrestling is a must-read for anyone with even a passing interest in the wrestling business.

Canadian balance

By KAREN GELLATLY
Staff Writer

I have always tried to read as much Canadian literature as possible, so when I came upon *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry, I coveted it.

Many of the 700 pages startled me because they gave a callous look at India and its dictatorship government. What intrigued me was the in-depth look at the four main characters' lives, and how intricately they were intertwined.

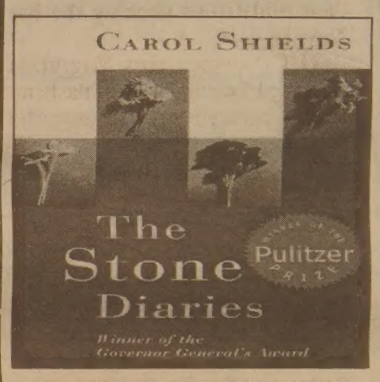
Maneck is a university student who has left his small home town to study. He ends up staying at the home of his mother's friend, Dina, a widow. Dina is a seamstress who is losing her eyesight and has to hire two workers, Om and his uncle, Ishvar. Om and Ishvar have left their poverty-stricken town to save some money and find Om a wife, a search about which he protests. Their lives become one for the year that they are together. Eventually they are brutally separated after their time together ends.

One of the greatest parts to Mistry's novel is the strategically placed use of Indian dialect throughout the dialogue. Attempting to decipher these words into English encourages the reader to participate, instead of being a passive bystander.

Mistry's book has won the Giller Prize, the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction, and his book was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

If you are under the assumption that Canadian literature is a bore, the ending of ***A Fine Balance*** will prove you wrong.

Fact or fiction — you decide



By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

Canadian author Carol Shields has written a novel so believable it reads like an autobiography.

Stone Diaries is the story of Daisy Goodwill, a common woman on the outside, but a passionate and troubled woman on the inside.

Set in the early 1900s, this 361-page book takes the reader through the many stages of Daisy's life. Each chapter explores a different stage in her experiences: birth, childhood, marriage, widowhood, remarriage, motherhood, old age and, finally, death. This method of writing pulls the reader closer to the characters and the emotions they go through.

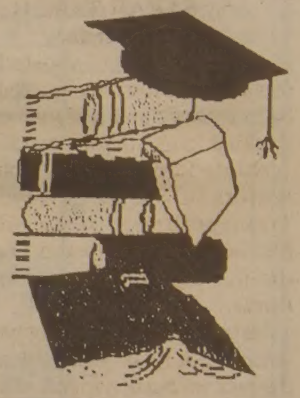
Daisy's experiences are so believable the reader feels an emotional closeness to her and to the prominent people in her life.

Included in the novel are photographs of many of the people involved in Daisy's life. A two-page family tree assists the reader in understanding the family relationships of those involved in the scandals, friendships and romances of the different generations of the Goodwill family, beginning before Daisy's birth. These two factors make the reader forget this is a work of fiction.

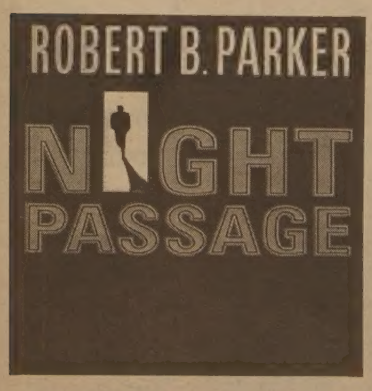
'A novel so believable it reads like an autobiography.'

Intricately written, *Stone Diaries* has been noticed in the literary world. Shields' novel, published by Vintage Books, is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the 1993 Governor-General's Award for fiction, has been short-listed for the Booker Prize, and is the recipient of the McNally Robinson Award for Manitoba Book of the Year.

Shields has been named the Canadian Bookseller Association's Author of the Year.



Good cop, bad cop, bad book



By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

Robert B. Parker's *Night Passage* is on the best-sellers list but it lacks an interesting plot and identifiable characters.

This 322-page book reminded me of a cheesy made-for-television movie with a slow-moving plot and shallow characters. The storyline follows that of a "good cop, bad cop" show.

Jesse Stone, a Los Angeles police officer, is fired for being drunk on the job. After a failed marriage and the loss of his job, Stone seeks employment as the new chief of police in Paradise, Mass.

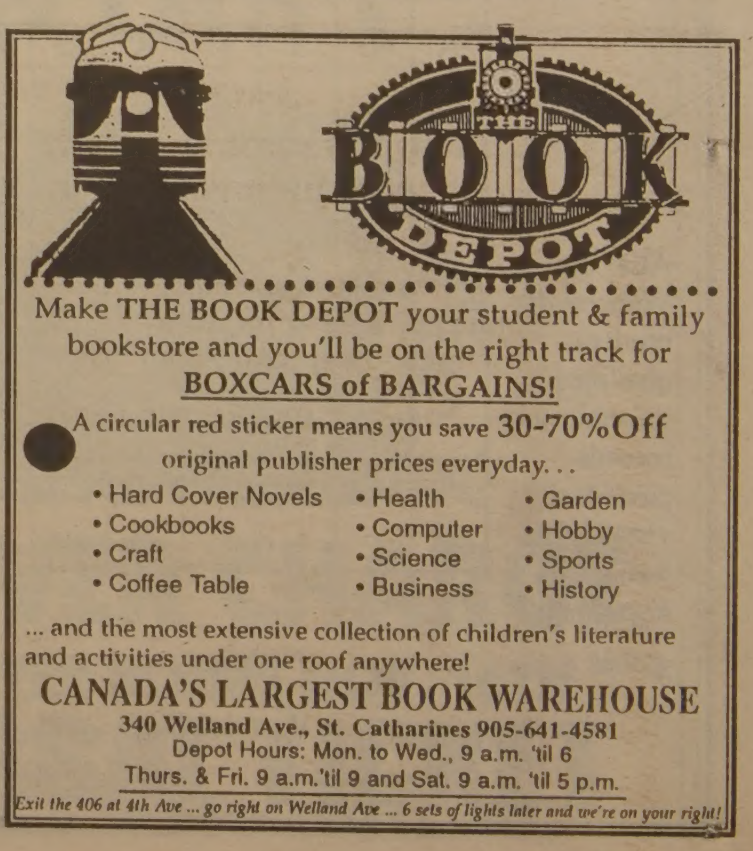
Stone arrives for his interview drunk and is hired despite his obvious drinking problem. Once he settles in Paradise and into his job, Stone cuts his alcohol imbibing to two drinks a night.

With his new found sobriety, Stone begins to notice Paradise is not the happy community it appears to be.

It isn't paradise for the reader either. I couldn't identify with any of the characters. Parker doesn't provide even a brief history of the characters. I found it difficult to maintain interest in the plot since it was predictable and unentertaining, ruining the few surprises there were.

'...reminded me of a cheesy made-for-television movie with a slow-moving plot and shallow characters.'

The reader may find it difficult to follow written conversations in the book. Although Parker would periodically identify speakers, most of the time the characters were not identified, so confusion was inevitable.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HOROSCOPE

Scorpio has gone missing in action

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

Aries (March 22 to April 19) — The stars are shining brightly on you this month. Feel good about yourself and those around you. Hang out with your friends and do something a little wild. A little adventure never hurt anyone.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) — Appearances can be deceiving. Those whom you thought you could trust don't seem to be trustworthy anymore. Be careful how much you share with your so-called friends.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) — Love is in the air and perhaps in your life this month. However, too many lovers is not a good thing. Be careful you don't stab that special someone in the heart. Consider the future consequences, for there may be grave consequences.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) — Life is only as good as you make it, so spice it up a little. Your place may not be the only place to party. Make sure you have no other choice. A broken object may hurt someone you care for in more ways than one.

Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22) — Your nights seem to be getting colder. Find someone to snuggle up to. Don't sell yourself short. You can do better than your first option.

Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — A certain Gemini may be hounding you for an item you seem to have misplaced. Retrace your steps. You may find it in the most obvious place. If it is a lost cause, run to the nearest store.

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — Recovery time is over. Now you must get on with your life. Keep your chin up and head full speed back into the swing of things. Your nights are sure to be exciting.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — You have been missing in action or at least that's what everyone thought. Hiding time is over. No explanation is needed for your recent disappearance. A love interest is no longer available, so move on.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — You're invited to the ball. It's an event you won't want to miss. Get dressed up in your Sunday best and strut your stuff. Show off your talented side. A certain audience member may have an offer for you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — Lights, camera, action. Life may seem like an endless charade to you and it is. You have been running yourself down to please everyone else. That's enough. Stand up for yourself and tell them all to take a number.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — Your gut is always right. Those people you have been hanging out with are just not your cup of tea. Go back to your real friend. Be prepared to beg on all fours.

Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 21) — Your body is desperate for a little attention. It may be time for a trim or to buy some new clothes. Spend a bit of money on yourself. There is no need to feel guilty. You deserve some self-indulgence.

Word Search

A	L	T	A	V	I	S	T	A	C	R	Y	S	S	E	M	A	G	M
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Cooped up for animal rights

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

No one's here but us chickens.

This past weekend, I read an article about two Ottawa residents getting paid $2,500 each to be "cooped up in a wire cage in the basement of an art gallery."

Were they trying to make an artistic statement or did they have too much time on one's hands?

Imagine getting paid money, being filmed for a documentary and getting free media coverage for spending a week doing absolutely nothing.

Unbelievable.

The mere fact these two individuals are sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, the Canadian Farm Animal Trust, and several other animal rights groups disgusts me.

It is people like these two citizens who could spend their spare time helping others in need rather than seeking publicity.

If these young people wanted a challenge, perhaps they should have considered doing something constructive for society.

There are several soup kitchens in dire need of volunteers, or garbage which needs to be cleaned up along highways.

The fact still remains that municipal tax dollars are supporting this cause.

It is my feeling that these individuals, and many others who believe in similar causes, have a lot of time on their hands.

It's a waste of time and money, and NOT art at its finest.

Versus

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

Chickens of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!

Pam Meldrum, 27, and Eric Wolf, 23, of Ottawa, sat in a one metre by two metre wire cage in the basement of an art gallery.

They had signed a contract to live for one week in comparable conditions to those experienced by chickens in return for $2,500 each.

Some critics complain that the "chicken exhibit" is a waste of taxpayers' money. The event is partially sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council, as well as the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

Waste of taxpayers' money

Ultimately, art like the chicken exhibit needs to be valued according to its potential, either to provoke thought or to entertain. This evaluation does not take place in a cultural vacuum. Evaluating artistic merit is not a science, but neither is it completely arbitrary.

Is it thought-provoking? Probably not, except for a small lunatic fringe.

It is entertaining, though.

Two people agreeing to eat vegetable mush and crouch in a tiny wire cage for an entire week is hilarious.

Who needs another landscape painting when you can ogle chicken-wanna-be's? I'll take chicken-people over a Wagner opera or a Picasso painting any time.

Toronto designer coming to Welland

Linda Lundstrom is coming to Niagara to talk about how she invested a $10, 000 start-up loan from her parents to build a major corporation with a complete family of products for women. The product line for Linda Lundstrom Ltd. includes coordinates, dresses, accessories, footwear and hosiery for the executive, leisure, holiday and special occasion wear.

Its most well-known product is LAPARKA, an all-Canadian design that pays tribute to Native culture.

Lundstrom will speak on Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. at the Lions Club, River Road, Welland.

The event is being organized by Women Moving Forward - Welland/Pelham, a subcommittee of the Welland Business and Community Development Corporation (WBCDC) with financial support from a number of sponsors.

"We approached Linda Lundstrom because she is such an excellent role model, both because of her outstanding business performance, and also for her ethical values and philanthropy," said Chris Yakymishen, chair of Women Moving Forward and manager, National Bank of Canada, Welland.

Lundstrom's company is located in a 37, 000-square-foot factory in Toronto and 90 per cent of its garments are manufactured at Toronto head office.

She has won numerous awards in fashion as well as Entrepreneur of the Year in 1996, Order of Canada in 1995, Lifetime Achievement Award and Canadian Entrepreneur Award in 1994 and the Canada Award for Business Excellence in Entrepreneurship in 1991.

Proceeds from Lundstrom's speaking engagements go toward the Kiishik Fund that she established in her home town of Red Lake, Ont., to support initiatives within that community to create a better awareness of the First Nations people who live there.

Tickets are $10 each and are available from WBCDC, 46 King St., Welland, 735-8085 or Small Business Club Niagara, 685-6100.

After Hours Entertainment Line Up

PUB EVENTS

THURS. NOV 13
PAJAMA PUB
WIN CASH FOR BEST P.J'S

THURS. NOV 27
BEACH PUB
PARTY IN 5 TONS OF SAND

SAT. NOV 22
FILM FESTIVAL
SEE GREAT STUDENT FILMS

MON. NOV 24
KARAOKE
SING YOUR ASS OFF!!!
LIVE STAND UP
COMEDY
EVERY WEDNESDAY
FREE

ALL SHOWS AT 8:00PM

NOV. 10
MOLSON CANADIAN
ROCKS

MON NOV. 10 8:00 PM
"LADIES NIGHT AT THE PUB"
Johnny Angel Presents
AMERICAN FANTASY
MALE DANCE REVUE

NO COVER CHARGE
CHEAP DATE AFTER HOURS NOV. 16TH
UNIVERSAL TICKET
REALLY BIG BAND..... REALLY SMALL PUB

Government injunction request denied

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

An Ontario judge has denied the government's request for an injunction which would have forced elementary and secondary teachers back to work.

Justice James MacPherson on Nov. 3 questioned why the government didn't request a ruling by the Ontario Labor Board on the legality of the teachers' withdrawal of services.

Justice MacPherson said, "(The protest) has no irreparable harm, and the strike has been remarkably peaceful."

Under Ontario labor law, school boards must individually request the labor board to rule on the issue within their respective jurisdictions. The school boards are legally the teachers' employers.

Oct. 27 marked the beginning of the largest teacher work stoppage in Canadian history.

About two million students and 126,000 teachers are out in the cold.

In this dispute the province's position is one of reduction, extension and refinancing. Among the proposals are a cut in preparation time for secondary school teachers, a demand that teachers spend more time in the classroom and a quest for unspecified savings in the administration portion of the education budget.

The education ministry wants a longer academic year through cuts to the number of professional development days and shorter exam periods. It also wants to implement the use of non-certified teachers for jobs in the curriculum areas of guidance counselling, music and sports.

In addition, the finance ministry wants to set the education portion of municipal taxes, and it wants to regulate limits on the number of students in each class.

The teachers' position includes keeping the current hours of preparation time and having the right to negotiate future levels, having more classroom time through increased funding and staffing, guaranteeing no further cuts to the $14-billion education budget, promising no layoffs of teachers and no use of non certified staff to replace teachers.

The teachers also want school boards to maintain control of funding through municipal property tax rates, and class sizes are to be decided through collective bargaining.

Despite the rainy weather that Monday, teachers' spirits weren't dampened, when they rallied at St. Catharines' Montebello Park.

At the rally, St. Catharines Mayor Al Unwin voiced his full support for the teachers' action. He spoke of his experience as an elementary school principal.

Unwin said, "Not since the War Measures Act has the government seized such power."

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had invoked the act during the Quebec FLQ crisis involving the kidnapping of several government members and the murder of Pierre Laporte.

Teachers weren't the only people out in the cold.

Seven-year-old Casey Helie and his grandmother, Maeve Kelly, voiced their support for teachers' actions.

"Some kids are afraid of the bogeyman. He's afraid of (Ontario Premier) Mike Harris," said Kelly.

Stephan Kramp, a teacher from THESTUDENTSCHOOL in Toronto, said union representatives "are prepared to go to jail" if the injunction is enforced.

The protest is a result of a breakdown in communications between teachers' unions and the province. The teachers are relying on public support to buttress their position.

Heather Coulis, 23, of Toronto, has a five-year-old son, Mathew, a senior kindergarden student at Kimberly Public School.

"I completely support them (the teachers)," the single mother said. "It is my responsibility to teach my son the ABCs and how to write his name. . . If it takes a day, a week or a month it is worth it to prevent (Bill) 160."

Other people have a different take on the protest.

An Ontario Academic Credit student from Richmond Hill Secondary School, Randy Diceman, 17, said, "The teachers should get back to work. . . it's not a holiday, because in the end (the students) are going to be rushing (to get school work done)."

If the stoppage goes on for a few weeks and the school year is extended, high school students are going to have a hard time finding summer jobs.

Chris Baker, of Richmond Hill, has been a school bus driver for 18 years. She said her students are important because they are physically and/or developmentally challenged.

"Parents of these children don't have the proper facilities at home to provide adequate care for their children," said Baker.

This involves such services as physical therapy in the pool, learning Braille or sign language so the children can communicate with parents.

Democracy lives

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

Democracy, according to Webster's dictionary, is "a form of government for the people by the will of the majority of the people (based on the conception of the equality of man)."

Ontario Premier Mike Harris, in the ongoing dispute over Bill 160, Education Quality Improvement Act, is the bully taking milk money from the least powerful — 2.1 million students.

I fully support the elementary and secondary school teachers in their protest. I think they have the right to teach history, politics and democracy through this hands-on experience. That's what this all comes down to.

I realize this government was elected, but the people of Ontario were under a spell of charisma and charm. Harris is a snake charmer and we, the people, are the innocent snakes.

The charmer sought a court injunction to force teachers back into the classrooms. Had he been successful, democracy would have been a thing of the past, for me.

Union leaders and members are prepared to go to jail for what they believe is right.

The Ontario teachers' protest could have been prevented if the government was willing to negotiate and respect the union's collective agreement.

After hours of talks and negotiations, I feel the teachers were left no choice but to protest.

This government has gone too far with taking power and money and demoralizing the people of this province.

I feel it's time someone stood up for those who have been hurt by the Tories, and put an end to this authoritative system we have allowed to take place in Ontario and in Canada.

Three junior protesters recently expressed their feelings during the teachers' strike. From left are four-year-old Alysha, nine-year-old Derek and five-year-old Dylan holding signs at Centennial High School in Welland.

Photo by Dan Dakin

College faculty talks continue

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

College faculties across the province rejected a contract offer by management Oct. 16.

Of the 25 colleges' eligible unionized faculty voters, 70 per cent cast a ballot.

Faculty are members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). The College of Regents represents management's position.

At Niagara College, where faculty are represented by OPSEU Local 242, there was a 75 per cent voter turnout. The contract offer was rejected by 94 per cent.

Sherri Rosen, Local 242 president, said the union bargaining team has approached the college bargaining team with dates in "efforts" to sit down and negotiate a new contract.

The union bargaining team is an elected group of professors with one staff negotiator.

The rejected contract offered no pay increases for the next three years, proposed the use of instructors in more technical classes and proposed renegotiating the number of hours professors work each school year. Other issues under discussion are preparation and evaluation time, maximum work hours a week and in an academic year, and class size.

Rosen said, "we are hoping for more talks (on the contract)."